FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 DECEMBER 1983

Lebanon

Security Situation — Five explosions took place in the commercial area of West Beirut, killing one and wounding three others, Beirut radio reported. Otherwise the situation in and around the capital was relatively calm and the Security Arrangements Committee met to discuss the consolidation of the cease-fire, the radio noted. Further south, an IDF soldier was killed and two others were wounded when their patrol was ambushed near Jazzin, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio. IDF Chief of Staff General Moshe Levi said in remarks reported by the radio that Israel has no proof that the 4,000 "terrorists" released from Ansar camp have been involved in the recent spate of attacks on the IDF in Lebanon. Nevertheless, he claimed that some of the "terrorists" who left Tripoli with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat have already returned to the Al-Biqa' valley.

Political Developments — Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt discussed the Saudi-sponsored security plan with two envoys of President Amin al-Jumayyil in Amman, Radio Monte Carlo reported on 29 December. Earlier, in a report on the last Lebanese Cabinet session of 1983, Beirut radio noted that Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said the director general of public security has ordered the suspension of the leftist newspaper *AS-SAFIR*.

Golan Overflights

Israeli warplanes overflew the Golan Heights on 29 December and were "countered" by Syrian aircraft, Beirut radio reported.

PLO Affairs

At the end of four working sessions of the PLO Military Council in San'a', Yasir 'Arafat signed a plan submitted by four senior officers in the council and ordered its immediate implementation, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Earlier, 'Arafat presented a comprehensive report on the recent battles in northern Lebanon, the radio said. Commenting in an interview with KUNA, the PLO representative in San'a' said the Military Council adopted a number of secret resolutions to confront Israel "everywhere." Palestinian sources in the YAR capital cited by Kuwait radio indicated that there was no quorum at the meeting, saying the Military Council "failed" to meet and that instead 'Arafat held talks with those members of the council who support him and with a number of Fatah officials.

In another development, a radio identifying itself as the "Voice of the Palestinian Revolution, voice of the PLO" was heard broadcasting experimental transmissions on 1412 Khz from Nahr al-Barid camp in northern Lebanon. An announcement by the radio called for the liberation of "all Palestine, from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean."

Egypt

Mubarak Interview — President Husni Mubarak, in an interview with *AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI* carried by MENA, said he may meet with King Husayn "at any time," adding that he is prepared to visit Jordan if necessary. Commenting on his recent talks with 'Arafat, Mubarak said the PLO leader promised to reorganize the internal structure of the Palestinian "home," to "discuss or terminate the question of the dissidents," to hold contacts to define the "landmarks of the future phase," and to contact King Husayn prior to holding "other contacts with all the other parties." A Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue should lead to an Arab political initiative based on the "good points" in President Reagan's plan, Mubarak added. He said PLO leaders were wrong to criticize 'Arafat's visit to Cairo after the latter "had already told them about this visit" and "they agreed" to it. Egypt obtained Israeli guarantees to ensure the safe evacuation of 'Arafat and his supporters from Tripoli, the president disclosed.

Relations with Israel, Jordan — Deputy Foreign Minister Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid was received by Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche on 29 December, ITIM reported. He told ITIM that he came to discuss issues of common interest in order to strengthen and accelerate the peace process and said he hopes to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Jerusalem radio said the visit would not have occurred if the United States had not exerted "heavy pressure" on the Egyptians.

Israel

Commenting on the Cabinet economic debate scheduled for 30 December, Jerusalem radio said the survival of the government in its present form is "in doubt" because of differences over economic policy. Reports that the finance minister is proposing to freeze settlement activity in Judaea and Samaria caused "consternation" in government circles, *THE JERUSALEM POST* wrote in a 29 December editorial, and the official denial of this report "did not carry much conviction." Earlier, Science and Development Minister Yuval Ne'eman threatened to withdraw the Tehiya faction from the government rather than allow a freeze on settlement activity, according to Jerusalem radio. The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza also strongly condemned a freeze although the Peace Now movement welcomed the proposal, the radio noted.

Iran

Boycott of ICO Summit — Iran will not attend the forthcoming ICO summit conference in Morocco because it is "obvious" that a summit hosted by "Shah Hassan" cannot make the necessary decisions for the Islamic community, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati announced in a statement reported by Tehran radio. Criticizing Morocco's policies, Velayati said the ICO conference should be held in a country with a regime that has "at least minimum credibility" in defending Islamic values and interests. He castigated the ICO for its attitude toward the Iran-Iraq war, asserting that the organization has paid no attention to Iraq's bombardment of Iranian cities and residential areas and has "not even bothered" to inspect the war zones.

Protest to Kuwait — The Education Ministry issued a statement condemning the arrest and expulsion of two Iranian teachers in Kuwait, Tehran radio reported. The radio also accused Kuwaiti security officials of arresting a female teacher and taking her to an unknown destination.

Iraq

Iraq will use weapons "never used before" to confront any new Iranian attack, President Saddam Husayn stated in remarks reported by INA.

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'Arafat Attends Military Council Sessions

JN281652 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The Palestinian Military Council concluded its 48-hour meetings, during which it held four working sessions on the various aspects of the Palestinian revolution forces' situation in the concerned Arab countries after the evacuation of these forces by a joint Syrian-Zionist plot.

In the first session, brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] presented a comprehensive military and political report on the battles that raged in north Lebanon, the siege imposed on the revolution, and the continuation of the plot against our masses in the Palestinian camps in northern Lebanon. Brother Abu 'Ammar praised the heroic role of the Palestinian revolution forces in confronting this plot. A massacre similar to the Sabra, Shatila, and Tall az-Za'tar massacres was supposed to be committed in Tripoli in order to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and its leadership.

In the subsequent sessions, the staff command, the Palestinian revolution operations' director, and the commanders of forces in the concerned countries presented additional reports on construction, preparation, a.d training in various fields.

At the end of these sessions, the Council approved a plan prepared by four senior officers in the Military Council. The commander in chief signed the plan and ordered its immediate implementation. The Military Council also discussed the position of the families of the fighters who departed from Tripoli and Al-Biqa', and approved a plan for housing these families and for guaranteeing education for the fighters' sons.

As-Sa'iqah Rejects Meetings

JN282019 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] A responsible source in the Popular Liberation War Vanguards-As-Sa'iqah Forces has asserted that the so-called meeting of the Military Council Yasir 'Arafat held in San'a' recently does not have any legitimate or legal significance due to the absence of a quorum and in light of the dangerous deviation led by 'Arafat. The source noted that 'Arafat contributed to the dispersement of the Palestinian fighters among several Arab states far away from the confrontation with the Zionist enemy. 'Arafat, the source added, abandoned the armed struggle, violated the Palestinian National Charter and PNC resolutions, and blatantly joined the Camp David bandwagon, which aims at ending the Arab-Zionist conflict and liquidating the Palestinian cause.

The source confirmed his organization's refusal to attend this meeting or any other similar meeting in the future due to its illegitimacy and because 'Arafat, through his capitulatory scheme, has betrayed the cause and relinquished the objectives of the Palestinian national struggle.

Amman Daily Details 'Arafat Support, Opposition

JN290831 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Dec 83 p 1,22

[Text] Amman — *AR-RA'Y* — Responsible Palestinian sources have stated that the majority of the PLO Executive Committee members support PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's policy. The sources explained that nine members of the PLO Executive Committee have, in one way or another, announced their support for 'Arafat's political moves. These members are: Jamal as-Surani, 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, Muhmmud 'Abbas, Faruq Qaddumi, Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, Hamid Abu Sittah, Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, and Dr Hanna Nasir, in addition to PLO Chairman Abu 'Ammar himself.

The members who oppose 'Arafat are: Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Ahmad al-Yamani, Muhammad Khalifah, Talal Naji, and 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar.

It is noteworthy that the PLO Executive Committee has 14 members.

Regarding the Fatah Central Committee headed by 'Arafat, the same sources stated that the great majority of the 15 members support Yasir 'Arafat. Two members of the committee have died. They are martyrs Sa'id Sayil and Majid Abu Sharar.

The following 11 members support 'Arafat: Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad; Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu al-Lutf; Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad; Khalid al-Hasan; Hani al-Hasan; Muhammad Ghunaym; Rafiq an-Natshah; Salim az-Za'nun; and Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid; in addition to 'Arafat himself.

Those who oppose 'Arafat are: Samih Abu Kuwack and Nimr Salih. Those two are leaders of the dissident movement inside Fatah.

PLO Fighters Welcomed by PDRY Defense Minister

LD281549 Kuwait KUNA in English 1354 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Aden, Dec 28 (KUNA) — A celebration was held here Wednesday at the Palestinian Sabra and Shatila barracks to welcome the Palestinian fighters who arrived here Tuesday from Tripoli, north Lebanon. The celebration was attended by the South Yemeni Central Committee member and Defense Minister Salih Muslih Qasim and the representative of the PLO in Aden Abbas Zaki.

The minister welcomed the Palestinian fighters and reaffirmed the support of the Democratic Yemen to the Palestinian revolution under the leadership of the PLO and stressed his country's keenness on safeguarding the national Palestinian unity and the integrity of the PLO.

Earlier reports had indicated that the Palestinian fighters who were evacuated from Tripoli following a six-week siege imposed by Syria and Libyan-backed rebels would only be heading for Tunisia, Algeria and the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen).

Pro-'Arafat Demonstration in Damascus Reported
JN281929 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Syrian intelligence elements, accompanied by groups of treasonous dissidents and agents, organized a march by Palestinian school students in the Al-Yarmuk camp in Damascus to protest brother leader Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo. Five minutes after the march by the students, the gathering turned into a confrontation between the Palestinian masses and students on the one hand, and Syrian intelligence and the treasonous dissidents and agents on the other. The masses hoisted Palestinian flags and Abu 'Ammar photographs. They also shouted slogans against Al-Fahum, Jibril, Abu Musa, Abu Salih, and the groups of agents and traitors. The masses raised their voices loud in favor of the revoltuion and brother leader Abu 'Ammar. Reports said that the organizers of the march were frightened and disappointed, which was reflected in their hysterical attempts to disperse the gathering which they led through the streets by force.

Fedayeen Lebanese Operations Said Increasing
JN281839 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance continues its operations against the invading Zionist forces' positions and patrols in the occupied Lebanese territories. These daring operations have escalated remarkably in the past few days. Our correspondent reports further on this issue:

[Begin recording] The daring fedayeen operations against the Zionist occupation forces in southern Lebanon have increased remarkably in the last few days, particularly in the last 2 days. The joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces have resumed their valiant national role in the face of the enemy forces, thus refuting and challenging the Zionist enemy's lies and tendentious propaganda, as well as the mouthieces of Damascus and Libya, on the truth of our heroes' military role in southern Lebanon, the occupied homeland, and all other hot contact lines with the Zionist enemy.

Yesterday, the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces carried out several successful military operations and attacks on the Zionist occupation forces and soldiers in southern Lebanon. These operations were centered in particular in Sidon. Last night, the joint forces launched a daring military attack on a Zionist military patrol in the Al-Qayya'ah quarter in Sidon, killing a number of the patrol's personnel including a captain. Other members of the patrol were wounded.

Other joint forces groups carried out four valiant and heroic operations. A fedayeen group attacked an Israeli roadblock at the northern entrance of Sidon, near the military beach. The group used rockets, handgrenades, and machineguns in the attack, killing or wounding several Zionist soldiers.

Another group carried out a similar attack on an enemy patrol on the road between Kafra and As-Siddiqin. A third attack was launched on another patrol at the crossroads of the Al-Qir'awn dam. A fourth group detonated an explosive charge near the Az-Zahrani River while a Zionist military patrol was passing by.

Also last night, six explosive charges went off in Sidon near enemy forces' positions. Our forces managed to inflict numerous casualties on the occupation forces. The enemy radio admitted only four casualties, including Captain Daniel Stefan from the so-called Border Guards. The Zionist occupation forces launched large-scale mopping up operations, stormed houses, and arrested several Palestinian and Lebanse citizens. A Lebanese man of religion was among the arrested.

This refutes all the claims that the role of the PLO and our military forces in Lebanon has ended, especially following the first exodus at the hands of Sharon and the second exodus at the hands of Al-Asad, Al-Qadhdhafi, and their agents. The Palestinian resistance arises as a fedayeen force capable of dealing blows to any Zionist position or solider on our Arab land. This fedayeen force does not abide by the laws of large troop concentrations and does not wait to achieve the so-called hollow strategic balance, which the Syrian regime's media and lackeys are bragging about.

The Palestinian resistance reconfirms its ability to create the appropriate conditions for playing a national and pan-Arab role to defeat the Zionist occupation of the Arab land and to secure the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. Otherwise, there will neither be peace nor stability in the region for the Zionist enemy's soldiers and the forces of Syrian-Libyan intelligence and its supporters.

Yesterday, the enemy admitted that the perpetrators of the aforementioned operations were terrorists, a term Israel uses when referring to our forces and heroes who will continue to haunt our enemies until victory. [end recording]

Kuwaiti Oil Minister on Market Outlook

GF281758 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 28 Dec (WAKH) — The world market situation will experience a "very difficult" period during the first half of next year, but all 13 members of OPEC are committed to defend the organisation's pricing structure, Kuwaiti oil affairs minister, Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah as-Sabah was quoted today as saying.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti daily *AL-WATAN* Shaykh 'Ali attributed the reason to inventories accumulated when OPEC members exceeded their production to over 19.5 million barrels per day [b/d] against a self-imposed ceiling of 17.5 million b/d according to their historic agreement in London last March.

He said this, coupled with seasonal drop in demand in spring, would "make the first six months of next year a very difficult period."

The London agreement, kept unchanged at OPEC's last meeting in Geneva Dec. 7, also involved assigning individual quotas to all members except Saudi Arabia, which accepted the role of a "swing producer" to defend the new base price of dlrs 29 a barrel for light Arabian crude.

However, Shaykh 'Ali forecast demand on OPEC's oil to reach between 19 and 19.5 million barrels per day during the second half of next year, citing the recent growth in the world economy.

AL-WATAN said according to Shaykh 'Ali, the average OPEC production for next year would be between 18.4 to 18.5 million b/d.

Shaykh 'Ali did not say what the output of OPEC will be during the first half, but according to former OPEC president and United Arab Emirates minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Dr. Mani Ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, demand on the organisation would drop to nearly 16 million b/d in spring if the mild winter presently experienced in Europe continues.

Shaykh 'Ali said "other encouraging signs" were the self - imposed discipline by the North Sea producers, Britain and Norway regarding their unchanged production levels for the first quarter of next year.

Mexico, another major non-OPEC producer, has also maintained its output and export levels unchanged for over a year to help in maintaining the market stability.

"This matter should be met with some sort of discipline within OPEC on pricing and production," Shaykh 'Ali said.

The Kuwaiti minister noted there was a "restrained desire" by many producers to increase their production in 1984, which will keep the problem between supply and demand for the next 2 to 3 years.

However, he added, "all OPEC countries are ready to defend present levels of prices whatever the sacrifices are."

GCC, OAPEC Promote Energy-Related Cooperation

LD270002 Kuwait KUNA in English 1238 GMT 26 Dec 82

[Text]— Kuwait, Dec 26 (KUNA) — The six-state Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the ten-member Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) agreed Monday to promote cooperation between them particularly in areas of energy-oriented specialized training.

A statement issued by OAPEC's headquarters here at the end of two-day talks between delegations from the two bodies said potential cooperation will also include participation in seminars and informational activities sponsored by each of them as well as the exchange of energy-related data. The talks were presided over by the GCC Secretary General Abdallah Yaq'ub Bisharah and OAPEC Secretary General Dr 'Ali 'Atiqah, the statement said.

Bisharah invited Dr 'Atiqah to visit the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh at a date to be fixed later, the statement said adding that 'Atiqah accepted the invitation.

The GCC, a regional economic and political body, groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. The first five are also OAPEC members. OAPEC also comprises Iraq, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia and Syria.

KUWAIT

Prime Minister on 'Striking Hard' at Terrorists

LD281923 Kuwait KUNA in English 1816 GMT 28 Dec 83

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 28 (KUNA) — H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah said Wednesday that Kuwait will strike hard at anyone who disturbs the stability and security of this country.

In a meeting at the Defense Ministry, Shaykh Sa'd said that the latest incident "proved our true belief and the responsibility of all of us for their national duty and our readiness to sacrifice for the sake of Kuwait so that it remains secure and stable.

Addressing the army officers and senior officers, H.H. said these sabotage acts strengthened our belief in pursuing this straight course.

Shaykh Sa'd also relayed the appreciation of H.H. the amir, the government and the people of Kuwait, for the army and the military forces for their efforts in supporting the security men,and the national guards in the wake of the criminal acts which took place in Kuwait on December 12.

H.H. also discussed a number of issues of interest to the army and the military forces, expressing "his interest to meet with them (the officers) on an annual basis to aquaint himself with their activities. Defense Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah later spoke, thanking H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd for addressing the army and the military forces who pledged to the almighty Allah to defend this country under the command of H.H. the amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah.

Shaykh Sa'd was received at the Defense Ministry by Defense Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah, the chief of staff, the defense ministry undersecretary, and a number of senior officers and officials at the Defense Ministry.

New Penalties Introduced for Terrorists

LD291132 Kuwait KUNA in English 1004 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 29 (KUNA) — Any person who drops a bomb, causes an explosion with the intention to kill, creates terror, spreads menace in the community or threatens public security will be punished with limb amputation or death, according to an amiri decree released Thursday.

The decree ratified a number of amendments to Kuwait's penal code as proposed by the National Assembly. The decree said, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 28 of the Constitution, all such persons shall be branded as corrupt and face the penalty of 'Haraba' which means 'expulsion from earth' or amputation.

The amputations would be carried out on two limbs simultaneously, severing the left arm and right leg or vice versa.

According to the new amendments such persons will be tried under the same charge even if they fail to accomplish such a deed for reasons beyond their control.

If such bombings or explosions lead to the loss of life, damage of property or harm public safety, the death or amputation penalties shall be applied, the decree further stated.

If a person is convicted for holding, manufacturing or importing arms or explosives for committing a crime as stipulated in the law, but no actual crime has taken place, he will be amputated, but his life shall he spared.

The draft law will come into force after ratification by the National Assembly and promulgation under an amiri decree.

The proposal was tabled by five Assembly members: Jassim Mohammed al Oan, Eissa Majid al Shaheen, Khalid Sultan ben Eissa, Hamoud al Romi and Saleh al Faddalla. [all names KUNA spelling].

PDRY

Defense Minister Welcomes Palestinian Fighters

GF281734 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Brigadier General Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the YSP Central Committee and defense minister, has announced the PDRY's readiness to become an arena of national dialogue for the Palestinian forces on the level of the PLO political program.

This came in his speech during a celebration held today at the Sabra and Shatila camps of the Palestinian forces on the occasion of the arrival of the Palestinian fighters group in Aden yesterday. He welcomed the Palestinian fighters and conveyed to them the greetings of the party and state leadership, foremost of which was Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, affirming the support of the PDRY people, party, and government for the Palestinian revolution and the heroic struggle of the PLO leadership, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The defense minister reaffirmed the importance of strengthening Palestinian national unity and maintaining the PLO's unity, pointing at the efforts which were exerted by the YSP to strengthen the Palestinian revolution's unity and end the regrettable fighting which took place in northern Lebanon.

Moroccan King's Envoy Departs Aden 28 Dec
GF281654 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Brother Rahali Rahal, Moroccan minister of public health and envoy of His Majesty King Hasan II, left Aden this evening after a short visit to our country.

During the visit he delivered a message to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers from the Moroccan monarch that contained an invitation to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to attend the fourth conference of the Islamic countries, scheduled to be held in Casablanca beginning 16 January.

He was seen off at the airport by Brother Dr 'Abdallah Ahmad Bikayr, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of health, and a number of officials at the Foreign Ministry.

QATAR

Amir Receives Visiting Mauritian Delegation
GF291022 Doha QNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Doha, 29 Dec (QNA) — The Amir of Qatar, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al Thani received today Mauritian Deputy Prime Minister (Jaftan Dorpal) and his accompanying delegation.

During the audience the two sides had a general review of bilateral relations and the means of enhancing them. The meeting was attended by Qatari Labor and Social Affairs Minister 'Ali ibn Ahmad al-Ansari.

The Mauritian delegation arrived in Doha on Wednesday fora visit to Qatar that will last several days.

SAUDI ARABIA

Foreign Minister on U.S., Lebanon, Kuwait
PM282036 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 Dec 83 pp 10-14

[Interview with Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal by 'Imad ad-Din Adib in Riyadh — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Your Highness, do you not believe that the peacekeeping forces deployed in Lebanon — the Multinational Force as well as other forces — have now become forces protecting certain interests? The peacekeeping role has now been overlooked and some states, such as the United States and France, are now parties to the current conflict in Lebanon.

Answer: We in the Kingdom have always warned against further complicating the problems through escalation. When the Multinational Force began expanding its operations in Lebanon we drew attention to the risks of such expansion, even to the presence and safety of the force itself. The presence of the peacekeeping forces depends mainly on the Lebanese people's conviction that the forces are there to keep the peace. If the forces join in any internal conflict they will lose not only their credibility but also the main reason for their presence, which is the Lebanese people's approval of that presence in their country.

We realize that the forces' task in Lebanon is a difficult one. I do not want to think that the contingents of the Multinational Force have any ulterior motive or objective. When their governments sent their sons on that mission they were motivated, we hope, by a desire to help Lebanon out of its plight.

The recent escalation involving the Multinational Force, that is, the shelling and countershelling, is in our opinion a serious escalation. We still plead and hope that this will be the end of a critical and serious phase. We hope that there will be no more escalation and that the force will be an element of peace and stability instead of getting involved in the current painful conflict in Lebanon.

Question: Your Highness, how do you explain the attempts to shift the current conflict from Lebanon to Kuwait. Bombs have exploded in Kuwait instead of Lebanon. Is this not a very serious matter and an irresponsible act? The U.S. reaction was Reagan's recent statement in which he said that the United States would never be weak from now on and that it would retaliate.

The prince's answer was categorical and immediate: Let us separate the issues. The Middle East situation is complicated enough and does not need any further complication. Without doubt, the Kuwait explosions are criminal, despicable, and inhuman. These words should be sufficient to describe such acts.

Regarding your question on the U.S. reaction, we say that there is no doubt that the United States is a superpower. This does not require proof. A superpower is a strong power. This does not need to be demonstrated because everyone knows it. I believe that, as far as the superpowers are concerned, their strength places responsibilities on their shoulders more than it gives them special rights. It is their duty to keep the peace and promote stability. Under no circumstances should they be a cause of instability. The United States is a superpower and it is strong. I do not think that it needs to demonstrate its power because its power is known.

The conflict in the United States' relations with the Arab world stems from U.S. policies, not Arab policies. It is the duty of the United States to support our causes. We only ask it to be just, especially if it wants its Middle East policy to be in harmony with the principles it believes in, namely freedom, justice and self-determination for all people.

Accordingly, I believe that the respect, appreciation, and support of the Middle Eastern states can be earned not through the use of force but through adherence to the principles of right and justice in politics.

Question: Your Highness, the role you played in safeguarding the Palestinian resistance through your mediation visits to Damascus and your efforts to achieve an implicit agreement will always be remembered. Do you not believe that the ensuing U.S.

provocation of the Syrian forces in Lebanon runs contrary to your efforts?

Answer: I really would not like to say that we have played a role. We have done our duty. Who in the Arab world is not pained to see Palestinians taking up arms against fellow Palestinians and Arabs? This must be painful to every sincere Arab. I do not want to link this situation to the United States. The United States did not cause this situation. We must separate the issues and we in the Arab world must accept responsibility for our actions and not hold othersresponsible for our difficulties and problems.

Question: The Israeli siege of Tripoli is directed against the Lebanese as well as the Palestinians. It is in fact a move against a settlement in the region. What positive part can the United States, in your opinion, play in this connection?

Answer: The main thing we expect from the United States is harmony between its policies and its principles. We do not ask for more. We only ask the United States to understand our just causes. The maximum we hope for and aspire to is that its policies in the Middle East be in harmony with its principles of right, justice, and self-determination. Instead of proving its all-out support for Israel — which has made expansionism the main feature of Israel's policies — the United States should demonstrate that it does not support Israel regardless of whether it is right or wrong. The limit to its commitment to Israel's security is that Israel should not encroach upon the security of others. The United States holds the erroneous view that its policy toward Israel falls within the context of maintaining stability in the Middle East.

The present imbalance in the Middle East is the result of the fact that Israel is getting absolute support from the United States. This makes Israel think that it can do anything in the region without losing U.S. backing. As long as the United States continues to pursue the same policy toward Israel, the Middle East conflict will continue because this policy does not serve any purpose and is not based on the principles of right and justice. Even if the U.S. aim is to keep the Middle East out of Soviet influence, the policy of unlimited support for Israel does not serve this objective. This concept must change because it is the cause of the imbalance in the region.

All the Arab states are open to relations with the United States. Even the states passing through major crises with the United States, such as Syria, have not suspended their talks with the United States and have not discontinued the efforts to lay down foundations for good bilateral relations with it. Every time the United States sends an envoy, Damascus agrees to receive him. In addition to goodwill and interest in talks and consultations there should be a change in the U.S. policy which always sees matters from the angle of Israeli interests. Events will definitely prove, especially in Lebanon, that Israel is not so much the small state worried about its security as it is a state in search of hegemony, oppression and expansion in the Middle East.

Question: Although there are no Saudi-Soviet relations, the Soviet Union, as a superpower, is present in the region. How do you assess this Soviet presence and how does Saudi Arabia assess the Soviet policies in the region?

Answer: The fact that there are no diplomatic relations at present between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union does not mean that we overlook the Soviet Union's role in our assessment. The Soviet Union is a superpower with its own weight and presence in the world. We understand and appreciate many of its decisions and stands in support of the Arab cause, particularly the Palestinian cause.

Like many Arab brothers, we do remember that the arms with which our brothers in Egypt and Syria fought and with which they scored the October 1973 victory, were Soviet arms. We appreciate that, despite the fact that there are no diplomatic relations between us and the Soviet Union.

On the other hand, we urge the Soviet Union not to contradict itself and we urge it to understand an issue which is of vital importance to us, namely the issue of the Soviet occupation of Afghan territory. The Afghan people are Muslims and they are close to us. The continuation of the Soviet occupation of that country pains us. We want the Soviet attitude toward the people of Afghanistan to be in harmony with the Soviet attitude toward the Palestinian people's cause, acknowledging the right of all people to freedom and independence without any foreign occupation. This slogan should apply to everyone without exception.

We say that if the Soviet Union really wants to strengthen its relations with the Arab and Islamic states then it must abandon its present policy toward the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

Question: Does this mean, Your Highness, that there are contacts between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union?

Answer: The fact that there are no Saudi-Soviet diplomatic relations does not mean that there are no contacts at various levels and in various ways. Such contacts do take place from time to time.

Question: Your Highness, let me ask you a question which some people have been asking about: "the limit of Saudi patience" in relation to the negative U.S. policies in the region. Some say that Saudi Arabia gives its impressions and makes severe remarks about these policies in closed meetings or undisclosed messages. What is your opinion?

Answer: What do you mean by the limit of patience toward U.S. policies? As a state we deal with all world powers on the basis of a firm and specific policy confirming our national commitments to our Arab nation and preserving our Islamic values. When we take a stand on any national issue, such as, for example, the question of U.S. policy in the region, we do so on the basis that such a matter is not strictly confined to Saudi Arabia and the United States. This is a matter for Arab discussion, deliberation, and a stand to be arrived at.

Saudi Arabia as a state cannot alone be concerned with such a national issue to the exclusion of everyone else. As regards our bilateral relations with the United States or any other world power, our conscience in the Kingdom is completely clear because we feel that our attitudes serve our interests and are not

in conflict with Arab interests. The Kingdom's decisions have always boosted, not undermined, Arab interests.

What is important in our dealings with any superpower is to have a unified Arab stand. Only a positive political atmosphere in the region would enable us to tackle the various issues. I repeat that Arab-Arab understanding is the main prerequisite for tackling any of our nation's major issues. A unified Arab stand gives us strength and ability whereas Arab division weakens and paralyzes us.

Question: This, Your Highness, prompts us to ask your opinion of the reports that U.S. President Reagan will soon announce amendments to his initiative on the Middle East to include the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Answer: We welcome any U.S. step in the direction of self-determination for the Palestinian people. We want the United States, as a superpower with an international standing, to support the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. We in the Arab world have offered a comprehensive initiative embodying the entire Arab position, an initiative which fulfills the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people. That initiative is the Fes summit initiative.

Question: There is one question which is repeatedly asked at every press conference by any Arab official. That question is about Egypt's return to the Arab fold or vice versa. Do you not believe that the time has come for settling this issue?

Answer: Some people are secretive about this matter as if there are secrets or secret contacts. The matter is crystal clear,as specifically stated at the Baghdad summit conference and then at the Fes summit conference. The Camp David agreements with Israel were clearly the reason for the boycott. The matter was discussed at the second Fes summit conference and it was agreed that the Arab states which still maintained relations with Egypt should look for suitable ways to overcome the causes of the boycott. We believe that Egypt is an Arab state with historical, material and moral weight, and we believe that its return to the Arab fold would be a boost and give added strength to the Arab nation which is in dire need of just such a boost.

It must be said that the recent Egyptian decisions and attitudes expressed toward numerous events in the region have been positive. We appreciate this and we hope that Egypt, with the help of the Arab states which have relations with it at present, will be able to eliminate the causes of the boycott.

Mubarak Receives Barre Message on Relations

NC281020 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA) — Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad, Minister of State for Manpower and Training, said following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak this morning at Al-'Urubah Palace that he submitted a report to the president on the outcome of his recent visits to Somalia and Sudan, and that he conveyed a message given to him by Somali President Siad Barre dealing with relations between the two countries, particularly in the economic field.

'Ali Returns From Sudan, Makes Statement

NC281902 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Cairo this evening from Khartoum after conveying a message from President Husni Mubarak to Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri regarding Middle East developments. He was seen off by Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak; Egyptian Ambassador in Khartoum Ahmad 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif; and members of the Egyptian Embassy staff.

'Ali said he and Numayri discussed topics relevant to the integration projects. Asked on the formula of the talks between President Mubarak and 'Arafat in Cairo, 'Ali said it is premature to have a specific formula for 'Arafat's talks in Cairo. He said 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his statements before his departure from Tripoli that he will hold a dialogue with King Husayn of Jordan, represent a new trend toward a political solution of the Palestinian problem by 'Arafat and the PLO. He said there is no doubt that many people, or rather, the majority of the PLO supports Yasir 'Arafat and his trends now that the picture has become clearer regarding the moves of all parties concerning the Palestinian issue.

Asked about the Syrian and Libyan reactions, 'Ali said: We know these statements emanate from rejectionist Arab capitals. Let us wait and see the results of 'Arafat's meeting with the Central Committee in San'a' and Tunis.

Reportage on Deputy Foreign Minister's Israel Visit

To Discuss Frozen Relations

NC281447 Paris AFP in English 1436 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, Dec 28 (AFP) — Deputy Foreign Minister Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid will visit Israel tomorrow, a ministry spokesman said here today. It will be the first such trip by an Egyptian official since Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali's visit to Israel in June 1982 the same month Israeli troops invaded Lebanon.

Mr Al-Hamid will discuss with Israeli authorities the freeze in relations between the two countries following the recall of the Egyptian ambassador from Israel after the invasion.

Mr Al-Hamid's trip is in response to a trip David Kimche, director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry made to Cairo in November.

To Meet Shamir, Kimche

NC291030 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA) — Ambassador Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid, assistant to the Egyptian foreign minister, this morning arrived in Tel Aviv for a visit during which a number of pending issues will be discussed. Israeli radio has reported that a meeting will be held in the Foreign Ministry building later today with Dr Kimche, Israeli Foreign Ministry general director. Ambassador Ash-Shafi'i will then meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. It is worth noting that David Kimche visited Cairo last month.

Talks Begin on Peace Process

NC291449 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The Egyptian-Israeli talks began today [in Israel] between the Egyptian delegation headed by Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid, deputy foreign minister, and the Israeli delegation led by Dr David Kimche, director general of the Foreign Ministry.

In a statement soon after his arrival, 'Abd al-Hamid said the the visit aims to consolidate and activate the peace process.

Al-Baz Views Middle East Peace Prospects

NC290930 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and Presidential Office director for political affairs, has emphasized that 1984 will be, particularly the Arab area [sentence as received].

In an interview published in today's edition of the weekly *AL-MUSAWWAR* magazine, Al-Baz said that the division the area witnessed in 1983 cannot last, because the Arab peoples realize the dangers underlying the situation if it continues in its present form.

He affirmed that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo represents an important development that will have numerous effects in the coming year. Furthermore, this development will not show its effect on only [as received], but also on the entire Arab area.

Dr al-Baz noted that Egypt does not try to impose its policy on anyone.

Dr Usamah al-Baz also emphasized that 1984 will witness a new page in the history of the peace efforts. He said that it is impossible for this step to be taken without the participation of Jordan and PLO. He added that, with regard to Egyptian-Israeli relations, one should not expect to see significant developments. This is on the basis that the present state of affairs is a normal

situation that would exist between two countries that only a short period ago started achieving a peace that would be the beginning of a comprehensive peace in the entire area.

Dr al-Baz noted that it is imperative for Israel to adopt a different stance regarding a comprehensive solution, and shouldinclude the following points:

1. Announcement of acceptance to enter in peace negotiations with Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian people's representatives, and Syria based on UN Security Council Resolution No 242 and its supplements.

2. A halt in all forms of settlement activity in the occupied territories.

3. Total withdrawal from Lebanese territory without making this contingent on a Syrian withdrawal.

4. Cessation of repressive practices in the occupied territories.

5. An admission that all contentious matters are negotiable.

In concluding the interview, Dr al-Baz said he expects 1984 to witness improved relations between the two superpowers.

Armored Division Conducts 'Huge' Tactical Maneuver

NC281500 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, West, 28 Dec (MENA) — An armored division today conducted a huge tactical maneuver involving two sides and called "Hilal." The maneuver was interspersed by a battle between the two sides. "Hilal" was conducted in open desert with heights reaching 195 meters providing the forces with the possibility of concealment and maneuvering. The maneuver involved an armored division brigade attacking, repelling, and destroying counterattacks by the other side, including night combat.

This is the first time U.S. M-60 tanks and M-113 armored vehicles have participated in a large maneuver, and follows the training of all participating units on these tanks.

Phantom fighter bombers also participated in the maneuver, giving aerial support for both sides from very low altitude and with high competence in low-altitude and dive bombing. Mirage aircraft conducted aerial reconnaisance operations, while Chinook helicopters carried out airborne operations involving paratroopers securing a vital target.

'Extremist' Religious Group Members Detained

NC290942 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA) — *AL-MUSAWWAR* magazine reports that the State Security Intelligence organ arrested members of an extremist religious organization belonging to the Jihad group. In today's issue, the magazine says that 12 detained members are now being cross-examined.

Communique on 27-28 December War Operations

JN281718 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,324 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 December 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued their activities against the expansionist Iranian enemy in the operational areas. The results of actions staged yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. A force from our forward units raided enemy positions opposite our own east of Basra, killing or wounding several enemy soldiers. Elsewhere in the same sector, our units shelled several enemy positions and troop concentrations, scoring direct and effective hits.

2. Our forward units opened fire on the enemy positions and troop concentrations in the battlefield's central sector, killing one soldier and destroying three infantry positions. The occupants of these positions were also hit.

3. The criminal and evil clique ruling Iran shelled Sayyid Sadiq, (Shandari), and Khurmal with heavy artillery today, damaging several civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 December 1983

Saddam Husayn Addresses Army Awards Ceremony

JN281514 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Dec (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has warned that Iraq will use weapons which have never been used before to confront any new act of Iranian aggression. He declared that Iraq has both arms reserves and capabilities which have not yet been used. He affirmed that Iraq will use all these arms when it is forced to do so in order to awaken the Iranian rulers and to convince them to return to peace. He emphasized the fact that Iraq's international border is as sharp as the edge of a sword before the aggressors.

The president made these remarks today during an address he delivered while bestowing medals of valor on a group of Republican Guardsmen for their heroism during the recent Panjwin battles.

President Saddam explained that the Iranian rulers are currently studying the possibility of manuevering from the northern to the central sector in order to surprise the Iraqis because their lines of communication are short. He stated that the Iranian rulers must let their peoples live in peace. Should they not do so, they will be condemned to death. He stressed that victory will be with the Iraqis and defeat with the aggressors.

The medals of valor were bestowed on 8 lieutenant colonels, 3 captains, 54 lieutenants, 20 warrant officers, and 10 NCO's.

Also present at the ceremony were Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense; Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im, director of the presidential office; and Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, the chief of staff.

Talks Held With PRC People's Congress Delegation

JN281531 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Dec (INA) — Under the leadership of Speaker Na'im Haddad, the Iraqi National Assembly held a round of talks here today with a visiting delegation from the Chinese National People's Congress. The delegation, led by Wang Renzhong, chairman of the Financial and Economic Committee, discussed current issues at both the Arab and international level. Foremost among these were the Iraqi-Iranian war, bilateral relations, and the means to promote them — particularly between the Iraqi National Assembly and the Chinese National People's Congress — in the service of the two peoples' mutual interests and hopes for progress and world peace. Haddad explained the dimensions of the Iranian regime's campaign of aggression and Iraq's positive stand toward the international efforts being made to halt the war between Iraq and Iran in a way that would guarantee the legitimate rights of both countries. He also touched upon the nature of the Iranian-Zionist alliance and their cooperation in the field of armaments. Haddad made additional comments on the current Arab situation in light of the Zionist onslaught — undertaken with U.S. support — against the Palestinian and Lebanese Arab peoples and the Arab nation.

Wang Renzhong conveyed greetings from the chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress to Na'im Haddad, and invited him to visit China. He also praised Iraq's position on settling the dispute with Iran through peaceful means and its response to all efforts being made to halt the war and bring about peace in a way that would guarantee the legitimate rights of both countries. He expressed his hope that the Iranians will respond to these efforts and stop the war as soon as possible. He also declared his country's concern about promoting and strengthening the bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation between the two nations in the service of the two friendly peoples' mutual interests.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets Moroccan Foreign Minister

JN281735 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdelouahid Belkeziz at noon today. During their meeting, they reviewed the ongoing preparations for the 4th Islamic summit conference, scheduled to be held in Morocco. The two ministers also exchanged opinions on the conference agenda, and discussed both the developed fraternal relations which exist between Iraq and Morocco and the most recent events in the spiteful Iranian regime's campaign of aggression against our country.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Ismat Kittani and the Moroccan ambassador in Baghdad also attended the meeting.

Moroccan Minister Departs

JN290901 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdelouahid Belkeziz concluded a short visit to Iraq and left Bagndad for home last night. In a statement, Belkeziz declared that he had delivered a written message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother, King Hassan II. He added that the note dealt with the Islamic summit conference scheduled to open in Casablanca next month, and with relations between the two fraternal countries.

He was seen off at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; the chief of protocol in the Foreign Ministry; and the Moroccan ambassador in Baghdad.

AD-DUSTUR Views Israeli Settlement Policy

JN291044 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A New Trend or a Temporary Measure?" *AD-DUSTUR* says: The clamorous political arguments in Israeli circles since the dissemination of Yig'al Kohen-Orgad's plan could lead to confusion in the Israeli coalition government's formula and then to this governments downfall, or they could lead to the plan's adoption during the Israeli Knesset extraordianry session scheduled for tomorrow to discuss the financial curtailments suggested in the 1984 Israeli general budget.

Perhaps it would be premature to predict the results of the internal Israeli discussions. However, we would not like to see this plan, if it is officially adopted, linked to some obscure U.S. hints being spread by some sources, especially since President Reagan's administration has not considered stopping the settlements a precondition for revitalizing peace efforts in the region. This administration was content to merely talk to the Israelis on this question without adopting a serious stand that would make the Israeli authorities forego their expanded settlements program.

AD-DUSTUR adds: This Israeli trend is probably the result of the increasing economic and financial pressure in Israel despite the big U.S. aid to the Israeli entity which has been increased to $2.6 billion for the next fiscal year.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: The aggravated social confusion, the continuous breakdown of the public utilities and services, and the escalation of demonstrations and strikes in Israel will lead to trends contrary to those that accompanied the Israeli political mood during past years. The results of the poll published yesterday by *HA'ARETZ* on the settlements question, and their implications may be a clear sign that the economic crisis will have a deep effect on creating new trends.

Egyptian Envoy Expected Within 48 Hours

JN290740 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Cairo — *AR-RA'Y* — Informed sources have stated here that a high-ranking Egyptian official will leave for Amman within the next 48 hours for important talks with senior Jordanian officials.

These talks are believed to be in connection with what took place in the meeting recently between President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Last 1983 Cabinet Session Reviews Situation
NC281643 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Dispatch by Joe Sa'adah from the Presidential Palace — recorded]

[Excerpt] At noon today the Cabinet held its last session of 1983 under the chairmanship of the president and in the presence of the prime ministers and ministers. After the meeting, Cabinet Secretary General Shafiq al-Munayminah delivered the following official statement:

At the outset of the year's last Cabinet meeting, the president conveyed good wishes to all that the new year may be the beginning of peace building in Lebanon and in the whole area, especially because 1983 was a difficult and bitter year. The president said: Despite the tragedies, we are more convinced that the determination to confront the difficulties is definite proof that Lebanon deserves to live in peace as long as its people succeed in steadfastly affirming their determination to overcome the ordeal. If difficulties are the touchstone of men, contacts and efforts are continuing at all levels at home, and in the Arab and international arenas to bring about the withdrawals, to confront the plans for foiling a Lebanese solution, and to reach a positive stance regarding a comprehensive security plan.

The Cabinet noted that the Army's deployment in the Sabra and Shatila areas is the implementation of a decision adopted by a previous government and sponsored by the present one. The plan provides that the Army fill in any security vacuum resulting from the withdrawal of any force from its positions. Subsequently, the Army has no intention to go beyond this decision or enter the southern suburb [of Beirut]. The Army's deployment in place of the French contingent which redeployed its men is directed against no one. The Army released all those held and proved innocent.

The prime minister pointed out that the contacts made with political and spiritual quarters resulted in resolving several issues and outlining the positive stances of these quarters. The prime minister spoke of the decision to suspend publication of the newspaper *AS-SAFIR* today as ordered by the director general of public security, noting that this is in compliance with Legislative Decree No 1 issued in 1976. The newspaper breached the provisions of this decree.

At the prime minister's proposal, the Cabinet decided to charge the ministerial committee handling the situation in the southern suburb with tackling the matters resulting from the recent events in Tripoli and the north. The committee's authority will also include other areas, the situation of which warrant such measures. The oil minister will join the committee when the question of the Tripoli refinery is discussed. During the discussion of this question, the oil minister said Tripoli will be a main terminal for oil imports until the refinery is repaired.

Foreign Minister Salim briefed the Cabinet on the preparations for the next Arab summit conference and Arab foreign ministers' meeting preceeding it. Minister Salim affirmed that the stances of the four states contributing to the Multinational Force remain stable and that there is no intention of amending these stances or withdrawing from Lebanon before those forces accomplish the mission for which they came to Lebanon. He pointed out that the Italian side might reduce its forces to the level when Italy first joined the Multinational Force.

The Cabinet discussed the possibility of preventing ships using illegal ports from entering the legal ports.

According to a clarification by Minister Shaykhani, the Cabinet discussed the question of prosecuting those carrying out kidnapping operations under the provisions of Articles Nos 569 and 570 of the Penal Code which was amended by Legislative Decree No 112 of 16 September 1983 which regards kidnapping a crime.

The Cabinet then reviewed the items on its agenda and adopted the appropriate decisions.

Al-Jumayyil Envoy To Meet Junblatt in Amman
JN281241 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Recorded dispatch by Fu'ad Nu'aym, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Amman]

[Text] Johnnie 'Abduh, Lebanese ambassador to Switzerland and Colonel Simon Qassis, head of Lebanese military intelligence, will arrive in Amman tonight to meet with Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, who, in turn, will arrive in Jordan today from Damascus.

Well-informed sources here said that the discussion between the two men will deal with the security plan for Lebanon, currently the subject of contacts among all concerned prior to its approval. The talks will also deal with the possibility of resuming the National Dialogue Conference in Geneva. It will be recalled that Junblatt has previously affirmed that the resumption of the conference depends on the adoption of practical steps to achieve a cease-fire in Lebanon.

Junblatt Doubtful of Progress
JN291057 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Amman — Another meeting was held in Amman this morning between Walid Junblatt and Lebanese presidential envoys Johnnie 'Abduh, Lebanese ambassador to Switzerland, and Colonel Simon Qassis, head of Lebanese military intelligence.

During the meeting, they discussed the recent security plan and ways of implementing it. Junblatt said he intends to keep the dialogue open in order to stop the bloodshed; however, he expressed doubt over reaching tangible results. As Junblatt said, the recent Beirut incidents illustrated the difficulties and impossibility of dialogue with the Phalangist regime. He asserted that the Amman talks revolve around the security plan, and that political matters will not be discussed without representatives of the National Salvation Front.

Salim Meets With Ambassadors; Discuss Issues

Receives Soviet Ambassador

NC291110 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Elie Salim today received Aleksandr Soldatov, Soviet ambassador in Beirut, and discussed with him the current Lebanese issues.

Meets Italian Envoy

AU281943 Rome ANSA in English 1931 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] (ANSA) Beirut, December 28 — Italian ambassador in Lebanon Franco Ottieri met here today with Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim for talks which were later said to have focused on the general situation in the country, presumably including the presence of Italian troops as part of the Multinational Peace Force in Beirut.

Asked if the Italian contingent is staying on despite rumors to the contrary, the diplomat told reporters that the Italian position remains that outlined by Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti when he met the other partners of the force in Brussels on December 9. The three other countries contributing to the force are the United States, France, and Britain.

The maintenance of the Italian presence, originally set at 1,110 men, but later raised to 2,100, was discussed amply in the Lebanese press this morning with special reference to the debate it has sparked in Italy.

One of the key points made by the Lebanese dailies is the confirmation that Rome backs the central Lebanese Government in its moves to achieve national pacification. Another big point was the Italian decision to cut its force back to the original 1,100 men, not to mention the polemics that have surrounded [words indistinct] Sandro Pertini's statement on December 23 in favor of withdrawing the soldiers.

Al-Wazzan Demands Curbing IDF Measures in South

NC291208 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] In dealing with the tense situation in Sidon, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan contacted the official and political leaderships today. He requested Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim to hold urgent contacts with the responsible international quarters concerned; to reactivate the Lebanese-Israeli Liaison Committe; and to contact the United Nations so as to give all of them the real picture of what is happening in the south and hold Israel responsible for what has happened, for what is happening, and for any possible developments.

The prime minister stressed the need to curb all repressive measures which Israel is adopting against the citizens in the south.

Sidon Protests Israeli Practices

NC290728 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Sidon responded to the call of organizations and dignitaries in that city and the south this morning, declaring a general strike and day of mourning for the lives of Sidon martyrs Jamal Habbal, Muhammad Ash-Sharif, and Mahmud Zahrah. All establishments, businesses, and schools closed down. Traffic was almost nonexistent on city streets this morning. A sit-in has started in Az-Za'tari Mosque for men and As-Siddiq Mosque for women in protest against the arrest of Ash-Shaykh Muhammad al-'Arifi and other inhabitants of Sidon.

Arens Visits Israeli Positions in South

NC281532 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Our correspondent in Sidon says that Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens this afternoon inspected Israeli positions in Kafr Falus, Tallat Sharhabil, Nahr al-Awwali, and the scene of yesterday's incident in which one Israeli officer and three Lebanese civilians were killed. Arens was escorted by several armored Israeli vehicles.

Security Arrangements Committee To Continue Talks

NC290645 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Between 0600 and 0730 today, Israeli military aircraft conducted several reconnaissance flights over Beirut, the suburbs, and mountain. Meanwhile, guarded calm prevails over the various axes of the mountain, the [southern Beirut] suburb, and Al-Kharrub region. No significant violation of the cease-fire was observed on these axes save for routine intermittent sniping on the mountain axis.

The Security Arrangements Committee today will resume its discussion, started yesterday, on ways to stabilize the cease-fire.

Lebanese Front Reacts to Reagan, Brown Statements

NC281758 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Front held its weekly meeting this morning which was attended by all members. The conferees discussed the security and political developments and the indiscriminate shelling of peaceful residential areas. They also discussed the ongoing preparations for the second round of the Dialogue Conference, and recent statements made by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and other U.S. officials.

Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram submitted a security report covering all current security developments.

Reacting to the statement made by former U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown, [Former] President Camille Sham'un said: Seven years after Brown's famous statement in which he

proposed to the Lebanese to emigrate to the United States, Harold Brown comes to recommend dividing Lebanon into three parts among Syria, Israel, and the Lebanese. Harold Brown further said that the Lebanese sector should be subject to Syrian supervision. Sham'un expressed his rejection of any division or rendering Lebanon subject to any hegemony.

Sham'un reacted to President Reagan's recent statement by simply saying: When there is a will there is a way.

VOL Says Abu Musa Controls Ra's al-Jabal

NC290722 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Security information available to the Voice of Lebanon says that 15 Soviet-made T-54 tanks and 300 dissident elements have recently reinforced the two headquarters belonging to the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] group in the two As-Sabbah guest houses in Ra's al-Jabal. The dissident elements came from the Al-Baddawi and Al-Barid camps and [word indistinct] area in the north through the Al-Arz-Al-Biqa' road in the mountain.

It is noteworthy that the Ra's al-Jabal area was originally under the control of the Junblatt group which vacated the two guest houses according to prior coordination with the Syrians and dissidents. The security forces affirmed that Ra's al-Jabal is now practically entirely controlled by Abu Musa.

Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Meets With Shamir

Frankel Comments on Timing

TA281620 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1555 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The director general [title as heard] of the Egyptian Foreign Affairs Ministry will arrive in Israel tomorrow. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

[Frankel — live] This visit reciprocates a visit by Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche to Cairo about a month ago. Ash-Shafi'i 'Adb al-Hamid, the director general of the Egyptian Foreign Affairs Ministry, along with two other senior ministry officials, will pay a 2-day visit to Israel. The guests will meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir as well as others.

The importance of the visit lies in the timing. It is being held a week after the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting and in the wake of Jerusalem's complaint that Israeli-Egyptian relations are at an all-time low. Recently Cairo has made efforts to emphasize it does not intend to deviate from the Camp David process and peaceful relations with Israel. It is against this background that one should probably view the timing of the visit by the Egyptian director general tomorrow.

Kimche Welcomes Delegation

TA290758 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0710 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Ben Gurion Airport, 29 Dec (ITIM) — Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid, one of the three Egyptian deputy foreign ministers, arrived this morning for a visit in Israel. This is the first high level visit by an Egyptian representative in over a year.

Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid was received at Ben-Gurion Airport by Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche. He told the ITIM correspondent that he came to discuss issues of common interest in order to strengthen and accelerate the peace process. "I hope I will have the privilege of meeting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir," Al-Hamid noted.

Israeli Ambassador to Cairo Mr Moshe Sason, who arrived with the Egyptian delegation, stressed the importance of the visit, which comes after so many months. It is a continuation of the dialogue started by Mr Kimche last month in Cairo. "I am convinced that through this path of direct communication, relations between Israel and Egypt can advance and improve," the ambassador said.

The delegation will stay in Israel for 1 day and return to Egypt on Friday morning. It is expected that Egypt will raise the issues of Tabah, the war in Lebanon, and the situation in the territories; whereas Israel will raise its discontent with the lack of normal relations, the absence of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, the poor cultural relations, and the attacks on Israel in the Egyptian press. Foreign Ministry officials also expect that Israel will repeat its dissatisfaction about the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting.

Report on Shamir Meeting

TA291211 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1148 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] We will now go over to Jerusalem, where the meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid began a short time ago. Al-Hamid is the first senior Egyptian diplomat to come to Israel since the outbreak of the war in Lebanon. Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports from the prime minister's office:

[Barne'a — live] The meeting, which lasted a little over an hour, ended a very short time ago. Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid emerged from the meeting with the prime minister and made the following remarks:

[Begin Al-Hamid recording in English] I would only like to say some few words: That I am really grateful to the prime minister to receive me and to give me that much time. We discussed points of mutual interest and, certainly the dialogue between Israel and Egypt will continue in order to achieve our mutual goals. [end recording]

[Barne'a translates the above and continues] It should be pointed out that the Egyptian deputy minister — who bears the title of ambassador — also refrained from making public statements after the working talk with Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche. It is absolutely clear that this visit in Israel, which had been scheduled to take place 2 weeks ago and was cancelled without any plausible reason on the part of the Egyptians, is today taking place following very heavy U.S. pressure on Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali during his visit in Washington last week.

At the end of the meeting with Prime Minister Shamir, we heard Ash-Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid praise our ambassador in Cairo, Moshe Sason, to the prime minister. Incidentally, Sason also arrived in Israel today with the reduced Egyptian delegation, and is participating in the talks here. We heard Al-Hamid praise and commend Ambassador Sason and laud the cooperation between our ambassador in Cairo and the various Egyptian institutions, particularly the Foreign Ministry.

The Egyptian delegation, made up of the deputy foreign minister and two senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials, is scheduled to hold another working meeting this afternoon in the office of Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche. Tomorrow morning, the Egyptians will return to Israel. [as heard]

The most important words — and this may also be the highlight — uttered by the Egyptian ambassador are his promise that the dialogue between the two countries will continue.

Al-Hamid Delivers 'Ali Message

TA291248 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1238 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Here are more details about the meeting between the prime minister and the director general of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry [title as heard] which took place this afternoon. The

Egyptian official delivered a verbal message to the prime minister from Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, which included a declaration about Egypt's adherence to the Camp David accords.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that in their meeting, Prime Minister Shamir expressed Israel's resentment about the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting. Shamir suggested that the autonomy talks between Israel and Egypt be resumed at once. If the negotiations are not disrupted by outside elements, the prime minister said, it will be possible to complete them within a short time.

Our correspondent notes that the meeting was held in a good atmosphere and it was agreed that the dialogue between the two countries should continue. The director general of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is currently holding a working meeting with Foreign Ministry senior officials in Jerusalem. At the end of the meeting with the prime minister, the Egyptian official said that the dialogue between Israel and Egypt would continue in order to achieve the common goals of both countries.

Press on Camp David, Egyptian Relations
TA290951 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 29 Dec 83

[From the review of midday press editorials]

[Text] *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* writes on the relations between Israel and Egypt. According to the newspaper, the last devotees of Camp David are those who paid the full price for the agreement — meaning the people of Israel. Now we are being cast aside like orphans, and the newspaper asks whether we can keep going like this.

Commentator on Economy, Shultz Message to Shamir
TA290632 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Interview with political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer by newsreel anchorman Yitzhaq Ro'e — live in the studio]

[Text] [Ro'e] The prime minister has summoned the Herut ministers for a meeting this evening in anticipation of the Cabinet's economic debate scheduled for tomorrow and to consolidate the coalition. He will also caution against the possibility that the finance minister might resign if he does not get the Cabinet's full support, as one version has it. Voices of dissent are being heard from various flanks on this matter:

[Schiffer] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is facing a real problem today: The survival of the government in its present configuration is in doubt. It is enough to look at statements by government members and the hints by various ministers to get a picture of this threat. In his own backyard, Shamir has a problem with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi. The meeting of the Herut ministers this evening may also be aimed at underscoring the fact that Levi represents a minority within the Herut ministers. In the meeting, Minister Kohen-Orgad will present his economic concept, because a senior minister told me a short time ago that he believes Minister Kohen-Orgad does not have an economic plan. [sentence as heard]

TAMI is the coalition's loose link, because the budget it is in charge of — that pertaining to welfare, which constitutes 17 percent of the state budget — is scheduled to undergo a significant cut. The National Religious Party has announced that its Cabinet members will object to a cut in the budget for free high school education. Tehiya has announced that it will be opposed to a cut in the budget for settlements. Also, there are diverse opinions among the Liberals. Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i did not accept the economic plan prepared by Kohen-Orgad. Minister Gid'on Pat also has reservations, because he was not made party to the preparation of this plan.

Another point should also be made: There is not the same moral commitment among the government partners which they had toward former Prime Minister Menahem Begin. As a senior Cabinet minister told me a few minutes ago: The first to jump the cart will drag the rest along. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is very well aware of this state of affairs this morning.

[Ro'e] Meanwhile, a message has been received in Jerusalem from Secretary of State George Shultz.

[Schiffer] Drawing a lesson from the unilateral moves Israel made in the past, U.S. Administration leaders now want to soothe and placate Israel's anger in the wake of the administration's position on the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting.

In his message to the prime minister, Secretary Shultz writes that the United States has not changed its position regarding the PLO. The United States will not recognize this organization unless it recognizes UN resolutions which imply the recognition of Israel. The United States continues to adhere to the Camp David accords. On this point, however, Secretary Shultz believes that the meeting between the Egyptian president and the PLO chief was positive, because it strengthened Cairo's status in the Arab world as carrying the banner of political settlement rather than that of the path of war. According to the Americans, in the aftermath of the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting, chances have increased that King Husayn will join the negotiating table and receive a mandate from the Palestinians to represent them in the peace process. Just as in a very well orchestrated piece of music, along with the message from Shultz received in Jerusalem, a senior Egyptian official is arriving here today to confer with the prime minister and Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche over the state of relations between the two countries. It should be pointed out that this visit would not have come about had the Americans not exerted heavy pressure on the Egyptians for this visit.

Tension in Alignment Over MAPAM MK's Vote
TA280958 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Dec 83 p 2

[Report by Yehoshu'a Bitzur]

[Text] There was tension yesterday in relations between the Labor Party and MAPAM after Alignment Knesset faction

chairman MK Moshe Shahal announced in a letter to MAPAM faction chairman MK Dov Zakin the dismissal of MK Imri Ron from membership in the Knesset Finance Committee. The reason for the dismissal was that Ron voted yesterday in the Finance Committee against the Alignment position on the matter of salaries of ministers, deputies, and directors-general.

MK Dov Zakin answered MK Shahal's letter at once, saying that MAPAM was ready to make any clarification about MAPAM member MK Imri Ron's vote, but would not agree to take orders from MK Shahal about Ron's dismissal from the Finance Committee.

MK Dov Zakin also demanded MK Shim'on Peres intervene to cancel the letter of dismissal sent by Shahal to Imri Ron. Shim'on Peres answered that he could not intervene in this matter.

The MAPAN faction then met; criticism was expressed that Ron had acted on his own initiative on the vote on salaries for ministers and not in accordance with what had been agreed upon by the Alignment faction. However, all the MAPAM members explained that they were backing him and would not, under any circumstances, agree to his dismissal from the Finance Committee.

HA'ARETZ on Opposition to Negotiations

TA280940 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Dec 83 p 7

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "Those Who Turn an Achievement Into a Defeat"]

[Text] How the wheel turns, as the song goes. Menahem Begin was opposed to UN Security Council Resolution No 242 until he was elected prime minister; then he changed direction and clung onto it by his very fingernails. He signed the Camp David agreements, but now they are clinging on to Camp David just as Begin grasped onto Resolution No 242. Not only are they demonstrating loyalty to the agreement, they are almost the last and only people who feel this way about it.

This springs from a profound fear of any move on Israel's eastern border; of King Husayn condescending to conduct negotiations as someone who no longer owes anything to the terrorists; of Yasir 'Arafat finally abandoning the path of terrorism and recognizing Israel and the United States gracing it with a seat at the discussion table; and of the possibility of arriving at an agreement on a territorial compromise in Judaea and Samaria.

This Israeli fear is so profound — it haunts the current government even though its chances of being actualized are low — that the ministers in Jerusalem are behaving unlike politicians in a democracy anywhere else in the world. In order to negate such a political interpretation, they have presented an achievement as a failure.

This is because the Tripoli departure could have been noted down as an achievement for the current government. It actualized the main demand that accompanied the war in Lebanon ever since it began, that the terrorists should leave the entire area of the Land of the Cedars. It is true that the PLO, under Syrian aegis, currently remains in Lebanon, but it does not resemble 'Arafat's previous independent organization. Not one Arab government has taken upon itself the responsibility for 'Arafat's terrorism. In contrast to this, Abu Musa's terrorism does have an address, one even written on the wall. When Abu Musa's Syrian PLO tries to attack Israel, Israel will be able to tell Damascus that it bears the responsibility for these deeds. Therefore 'Arafat's expulsion and the establishment of terrorist headquarters on the fringes of the West — at the extreme end of the Mediterranean — was a sort of achievement for the Shamir government, even though it has not recently taken any trouble to claim it as such.

The same applies to 'Arafat's visit to Cairo. It is one thing to claim — in an attempt to do one's duty — that Egypt has turned its back on the Camp David agreements by receiving 'Arafat in its capital, and it is something else altogether to recall that 'Arafat swore his feet would never touch Egyptian soil as long as Egypt was bound by the peace agreement; and now he has crawled to Cairo without President Husni Mubarak having renounced Camp David, or even hinted at such a possibility. In the political-psychological fight between Israel and the terrorists — which swings between hope and despair — it is doubtful whether Jerusalem could have praised itself for any achievement greater than this.

These achievements reinforce the spirit of the original Camp David, which was typified in the time of the late Moshe Dayan and 'Ezer Weizman by a desire to bring about a certain resolution of the Palestinian problem, even if only partially, and provide a certain degree of achievement to the avoidable war in Lebanon, even though it has remained not worthwhile, even now. Nevertheless these achievements have not been taken advantage of by the Government. It would seem that the government has a greater desire to rid Husayn and 'Arafat — and even the Village Leagues — of the hope that by their moderation they will have something to talk about with Israel in Judaea and Samaria, than an interest in achievements.

It is true that the government will not dare to do what Ge'ula Kohen, of Tehiya, proposed not long ago. It will not take advantage of the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting to state that it is a violation of the Camp David agreement and, in reaction, annex Judaea and Samaria. Shamir is too cautious to act in this way, but there is no doubt that he would like to aim at a target such as that of the Tehiya MK. In the final analysis, the prediction that 'Arafat will not dare to approach the political negotiating table may actually come true and, if he does approach the table, he will be overthrown by his loyalists waiting in the wings in Tunis and, with irrelevant zeal, guarding the validity of the Palestinian charter which calls for the destruction of Israel. He will also infect King Husayn with his convolutions and yet another U.S. peace initiative will fall into the abyss. What will also emerge in this context is that the Likud, of course, is refusing to admit that Israel, more than ever in the past, now needs a government prepared to welcome a moderate development in the Arab world and the Palestinian people; an alternative government that fits in with the description by Shim'on Peres, who is not certain that a government under his leadership could make peace, but is convinced that the Likud rule is definitely incapable of doing so.

This is the whole difference. This is a great deal.

Moshe Levi on Increased Terrorism in Lebanon

TA281518 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Chief of Staff Moshe Levi told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that terrorist acts against the IDF in southern Lebanon have increased lately. According to the chief of staff, there is no evidence that the released Ansar detainees are involved in these terrorist acts. Lieutenant General Levi disclosed that terrorists who left Tripoli with 'Arafat have already returned to northern Lebanon's Al-Biqa' region.

Army To Review Policy

TA281852 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Chief of Staff General Moshe Levi said there is no proof that the 4,000 terrorists released from the Ansar camp in the prisoner exchange have been involved in the recent attacks in Lebanon. He added some of the terrorists who left Tripoli with Yasir 'Arafat have already returned to the Lebanese Al-Biqa' Valley. General Levi met reporters in Tel Aviv today. He said the army will soon present a review of the situation in southern Lebanon to the government. Toni Gadot reports.

[Begin recording] Israel's presence in southern Lebanon is vital to the security of Israel's northern border and ways must be found in which to reduce security forces' casualties in the area, said Levi. The review, shortly to be presented to the government, will include an assessment of the open bridges policy over the Al-Awwali River that separates the Israel Defense Forces from the rest of Lebanon.

Levi also stated that there is no intention of setting up a military government in the area controlled by Israel. Asked whether the town of Sidon, that has been the scene of so many attacks against Israeli military personnel, should have been excluded from the controlled area, the chief of staff said that there is no way of knowing whether the situation would be any better with Sidon on the other side of the Israeli deployment lines.

Levi went on to say that the efficiency of the new Lebanese Army goes beyond his expectations, and that both they and the Druze militia are capable of controlling terrorism in Lebanon, shou'd they wish to do so.

Speaking of terrorist leader Yasir 'Arafat's evacuation of Tripoli, the chief of staff said that although the IDF had the military resources, a military option against 'Arafat was never considered, and that had Israel wanted 'Arafat dead, they could have killed him even before his evacuation Beirut over a year ago.

In conclusion, Chief of Staff Levi said that in the war against terrorism, Israel is obviously trying to keep away from a direct confrontation with Syria; and even though Syria is militarily prepared for war, so is Israel, and has contingency plans for any situation that may arise. [end recording]

Arens Tours Lebanon 28 Dec

TA281713 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1703 GMT 28 Dec 83

["Defense Ministry Spokesman's Announcement" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel aviv, 28 Dec (ITIM) — Defense Minister Moshe Arens today toured southern Lebanon and visited the sites where incidents have taken place lately between IDF soldiers and terrorists.

During the tour the minister visited Al-Awwali bridge where he was acquainted with the traffic regulations and efforts made to facilitate the passage of the Lebanese residents. The defense minister was accompanied by Chief of Staff Moshe Levi; Major General Ori Or, the commander of the Northern Command; Major general Uri Sagi, the assistant to the Intelligence Branch commander; other senior officers.

Chief of Staff Comments

TA281934 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi by Beni Liss in Tel Aviv on 28 December — videotaped]

[Text] [Liss] Mr Chief of Staff, in view of the increase in terrorist acts in Sidon, which is a little reminiscent of Gaza in the 1960's — will you recommend to political policymakers removing Sidon from the IDF-controlled zone?

[Levi] I do not know why this reminds you of Gaza, nor was I aware it was decided to leave Gaza due to terrorist acts. We have a problem with terrorist acts. It should be dealt with; we are acting to reduce the number of terrorist acts and surely also the number of casualties involved. Leaving places where problems arise does not seem an appropriate solution to me, neither according to my point of view nor in this specific case either.

[Liss] Mr Chief of Staff, do you believe that this is the IDF's last winter in Lebanon?

[Levi] Our criterion for determining the length of the IDF's stay in Lebanon is not one of time but of objective. Since our objective is not within reach today, namely, since we cannot leave today and say that the objective has been achieved without our having to be present there — I would not then set a date for leaving Lebanon.

[Liss] Can we at least assume that next winter we will be deployed along different borders?

[Levi] I am trying to say that the test, as I said regarding Sidon, whether we stay there or leave this town, lies in the result. To leave and return immediately would not accomplish the objective. The test lies in the security objectives and it is these we should consolidate before we make any other move.

Levi on Lebanon, Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting

TA282048 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1935 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi on "Moqed" program by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir, Nisim Mish'al and Hayim Platner in the studio — videotaped]

[Excerpt] [Platner] Mr Deputy Prime Minister, let us now deal with the issue of Lebanon: The terrorist acts aginst the IDF forces in Lebanon are continuing; two soldiers have been killed this past week and the question arises as to whether it is now time to think about accelerating the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon.

[Levi] We want to leave Lebanon. After all, we do not seek territory or anything else there, except for one thing: Lebanon must no longer be a base for aggression against our settlements. This would cost us a heavy price in blood. However, to leave without having reached any political settlement, without having guaranteed that our settlements will continue to exist peacefully, would not be a wise move. If we let those who attack our soldiers today go free they will be able to continue to attack and we will have to embark on another war.

[Platner] Is such a political settlement in the offing at all?

[Levi] I hope so. Today Israel's stance is understood better than ever before, both by the United States and by other countries in the free world.

[Mish'al] Mr Deputy Prime Minister, last week 'Arafat left Tripoli, and it is no secret that there were disagreements in the Cabinet regarding Israel's reaction to this. Why did Israel in fact allow 'Arafat and his terrorists to leave Tripoli?

[Levi] I was not here at the time, but the Cabinet held a discussion and made a decision, and it is this decision that was finally implemented.

[Mish'al] What is your personal opinion of the matter: Should 'Arafat have been allowed to leave Tripoli?

[Levi] My personal opinion is irrelevant when there is a Cabinet decision.

[Platner] Is there no contradiction between the U.S. blessing given to the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting and the strategic understanding reached by Prime Minister Shamir during his visit to Washington?

[Levi] One should take a grave view of this meeting. It contradicts the peace accords; it contradicts what has been agreed upon, that the PLO is not our partner for any dialogue, for any negotiations. The decisive majority in Israel supports this stance. This is known to all. The PLO is a terrorist organization with a well-known policy and with a well-known charter. I would like to say that our protest should be sharp. At the same time, though, it should not be presented as reflecting an atmosphere of crisis between us and the United States, certainly not. The United States has a position and Israel too has a position on this matter. We should continue with the same dialogue and with the same understanding with the United States, in an effort to make our position understood. Our position is right; we should make an effort to make it understood that aid to the PLO creates a vacuum in fact, since Israel will not under any conditions be a partner to talks with the PLO.

[Ahime'ir] Do you not see the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting as a sort of a process or a sign that 'Arafat, in meeting with an Arab statesman who signed the Camp David accords, is becoming more moderate?

[Levi] I do not see any process of moderation. This is impossible. This is a terrorist organization which repeats its acts. It is distressed and beaten as a result of our activity; and so this organization, or rather its leader, is prepared to violate its vow not to meet with the Egyptian president. We take a grave view of this meeting, as far as Egypt is concerned. At the same time, it should be remembered that we must not adopt extreme measures on this issue.

[Ahime'ir] For instance?

[Levi] I heard that some say our ambassador should be recalled from Cairo while others give various extreme advice. Well, peace with Egypt is a historic turning point. It can affect the entire Middle East, including Israel, in the future. We must be strong and tolerant. We should view peace as a great achievement which has passed tests and proved that it is a peace based on solid foundations. As for Egypt, we must not be at odds with it; to argue, to protest but at the same time to always seek a way to strengthen peace, should be our road.

MAPAM Official Says Lebanon War 'Forgotten'

TA290847 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 29 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] On 28 December, at the opening of a political debate by the MAPAM secretariat, MAPAM Secretary General Victor Shemtov said that the Lebanon war had become the forgotten war; people were being killed and wounded, and no one was impressed any more.

Shemtov said the government's position on an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, that it should be dependent on a Syri[illegible] drawal, should not be accepted, nor should the model [last wo[illegible] in English] of the partition of Lebanon be accepted.

Shemtov pointed out that in the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, it was agreed that Israel would be able to carry out aerial patrols in Lebanese airspace, and naval patrols along the Lebanese coasts. There was also mention of a brigade of Haddad's forces to be stationed in the southern region of Lebanon, the establishment of a local militia, and a redeployment of UNIFIL forces and special, limited Israeli units.

A unilateral implementation of the security arrangements appearing in the agreement — by Israel — would make it possible for the IDF to leave Lebanon within a short time, and would guarantee the safety of the Galilee settlements, he said.

Referring to 'Arafat's meeting with President Mubarak, Shemtov said the Shamir-Arens reaction was publicity for the PLO. He emphasized that nothing had changed, and there was no need for any change in MAPAM's attitude toward the PLO. That same 'Arafat who had gone to Mubarak had taken responsibility for the attack against the Jerusalem bus, and this did not indicate any change of direction or abandoning terrorism.

Taking part in the debate were: Aharon Efrat, Ya'aqov (Mayus), Dov Peled, (Haykal) Ramot, Dov Barnir, Latif Dori, Nahum (Solen) and Gadi Yatziv.

Lebanon Ambush Kills 1, Wounds 2 IDF Soldiers

TA281509 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] An IDF soldier was killed and two were wounded this morning by fire directed from an ambush at an IDF patrol 4 km south of Kafr Hunah in the Jazzin area of Lebanon. This is announced by the IDF spokesman. The family of the dead soldier has been notified.

The ambush was planted at 0830 today in a rocky area with thick vegetation. When fire was opened at the patrol, the soldiers returned the fire toward the terrorists who ambushed them. IDF forces have begun extensive searches at the site of the incident.

Two Sentenced to Death for IDF Soldier Killing

TA281900 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1845 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Lod, 28 Dec (ITIM) — Two terrorists were sentenced to death by the Lod military court yesterday after they were convicted of murdering an IDF soldier. The ITIM correspondent has learned that the two are Israeli Arabs, both 29-year-old residents of the village of 'Ara in the Triangle.

Ben-Eli'ezer Comments on West Bank Leadership

TA290927 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Dec 83 p 2

[Report by R. Ga'on]

[Text] "One of my primary commitments when I entered office was to give the leadership of the municipalities back to local people. There is now no municipality in the territories headed by an IDF officer or an Israeli which I did not offer to local civilians — not 'selected inhabitants' but first rate people — but they always refused, on the very same pretext: It is worth waiting a bit longer; and the reasons are clear."

This was the reply by Brigadier General, Reserves, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer ("Fu'ad"), the coordinator of activities in the territories, to my question about a tour he made yesterday, 28 December, of Rafah and Dayr al-Balah in the Gaza Strip. He also participated in a news conference with local notables to mark the appointment of Brigadier General Binyamin Avraham to the post of head of the civilian administration in the Gaza Strip.

Fu'ad added that on his latest trip to the United States, he repeated a key sentence several times: "Whatever happens, Jews and Arabs must learn to live together and make their lives more beautiful." He appealed to the notables: "The fate of our children and yours is a common one, and they ought to learn how to live with each other." He also said he would fight to the end against violence, and first and foremost defend those who think the time has come to turn their backs on the past and look toward a better future, for the benefit of us all.

The coordinator of activities also said that on his latest visit to the United States, the Americans had told him they intended to help the inhabitants of the territories. He answered that the main problem in the territories was not a socioeconomic one, but political, and especially on the part of the Arabs. However, he definitely accepted the Americans' desire to help in the field of the rehabilitation of refugees. Past experience had proved that this was essential. This was on condition that any action be taken within the framework of Israeli law and the multiyear plan for rehabilitation of the refugees which already exists. A delegation from the United States is to come to Israel at the beginning of February to continue the dialogue.

MA'ARIV Comments on Civilian Administration

TA281040 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Dec 83 p 8

[Commentary by Yosef Tzuri'el: "A Vision That Died"]

[Text] This year the civilian administration expired. Now it is dead. The deceased may be seen stretched out in the courtyards, with people wearing uniforms passing by it, weeping for it, extolling it.

The civilian administration is dead; there is nobody who will stand up and read out its death certificate. It is not pleasant to admit a failure, even if it can be blamed on the previous defense minister. There are those who are asking: What will the local Arab population say? How will this appear to them?

These are marginal calculations, unimportant and not to the point. In the meantime the show goes on as though this is Israel's most brilliant invention in all its years of existence, as though there was still hope that this will lead to less hostility, reduced violence, a weakening of the PLO, and implementation of the autonomy plan.

However, alongside this "mourning" we see the waste caused to the Israeli Administration as a result of the separation between the civilian administration and the military government. It is well known that the coordinator of activities in the territories is not satisfied with the situation. This fact is not sufficient. Somebody from above must decide.

The sooner a decision is made about cancelling the separation, the less damage will be caused. In a situation in which there are two Israeli representatives in every district — one "civilian" and one "military," and both of them have an army of aides, officials, vehicles, sets of considerations, and ties with the local Arab population — Israeli rule will not be able to function efficiently.

It must be admitted that there was an idea. There was a plan. It did not work out. It failed. And there is no getting away from drawing the conclusion, with the main point being a return to the days prior to the autonomy vision, with one commander for the area of Judaea and Samaria, controlling the entire territory, with directives being issued from his office, and he being the one who takes from and gives to the authorities, both military and political.

Then the settlers will know that they, too, have a clear authority to which they may take their demands. And the Arabs of the region will realize that they are no longer pawns in the hands of two separate authorities which were connected by a vision as dead as if it had never existed.

Coalition Party on Report of Settlement Freeze

TA281423 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Tehiya syas it has been informed that there is no truth to the report that the Finance Ministry intends to propose a settlement freeze to the Cabinet. Faction members told our Knesset reporter Tzvi Yisre'eli that this is what they were told by the prime minister's office. They explained that the Finance Ministry was referring to an overall budget framework, within which certain priorities would be determined, and the settlements would remain a high priority.

The prime minister met with the finance minister about an hour ago to ascertain whether the report of a settlement freeze is true.

Minister Yuval Ne'eman says that Tehiya will leave the government if the Finance Ministry proposes a partial or total freeze of new settlements in Judaea and Samaria. According to him, the budgets are in any case inadequate even now, and Tehiya will not agree to a reduction of the settlement budget.

JERUSALEM POST on Freeze

TA290743 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Dec 83 p 8

[Editorial: "The Crunch Comes"]

[Text] The consternation caused in government circles yesterday by the radio report that the Treasury was proposing to discontinue virtually all new settlement activity in Judaea and Samaria illustrates the kind of difficulty the finance minister, Yig'al Kohen-Orgad, will be facing in trying to win support for his overall austerity plan.

One reaction to the news was the expected one from the extreme right wing. Thiya's Yuval Ne'eman, the science minister, announced that his party would bolt the coalition if settlement activity were indeed halted. But the prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, also seemed to have been most unpleasantly surprised. Truly, the news put him in a strange position. While he still rejected President Reagan's suggestion that Israel should freeze new settlement so as to facilitate the political process, here was his own finance minister telling him that this had to be done in order to save the country's economy from bankruptcy.

The radio report was promptly denied, but the denial did not carry much conviction. To be sure, Mr Kohen-Orgad's proposal does not amount to a decision. This will have to be taken by the Cabinet which is meeting tomorrow for the start of a series of sessions on budget cuts. But the finance minsiter will apparently be saying to his colleagues that all activities that are not absolutely essential to the nation's security and well-being must for the moment be put off.

This general principle applies to new settlement across the Green Line as much as it applies to the Netive Ayalon road project and the Med-Dead Canal. The standard of judgment is not political. Mr Kohen-Orgad is a Herut hawk who is building a home for himself in a town in Samaria. He is, however, also a finance minister who can tell economic sense from economic nonsense.

His Cabinet colleagues, perhaps even a majority of them, may yet disagree with him, and not only out of fear of what Tehiya might do in retaliation for a settlement freeze. But if the proposal falls, more drastic cuts will have to be made in health, education and welfare. And more new taxes will have to be levied, and currently free services, not only secondary education which is already on the block, made available only for a price.

This will meet with stiff opposition from the bulk of the citizenry, which is wage-earning but not sufficiently "needy" to escape the impact of the cuts and impositions, and whose income has already been painfully eroded by runaway inflation which could climb towards a 500 percent level within a year. Plainly, unless the government pares its own expenditures to the bone, spiking every idea of spending that does not pass the strictest test of national necessity, it will forfeit any moral right to call on the people to make personal sacrifices for the common weal.

West Bank Reaction to Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting

Former Gaza Mayor

TA231227 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpt] In the territories, reactions to the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting have been mixed. In the main, there was reservation; but [deposed] Gazan Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa came out in favor.

[Begin Ash-Shawwa recording] As a Palestinian, I think it was a very constructive meeting and such a meeting should have been held a number of years ago because I think that without an understanding between the Palestinians, Egypt and Jordan we cannot reach a solution. Of course, these parties that I have mentioned are on one side and Israel is on the other. But, if these three parties — Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinians — unify their ideas about a solution, about the rights of the Palestinians, I think Israel will be more receptive. [end recording]

Former Village Leagues Chairman

TA232028 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Report by Gil Sadan — videotaped]

[Excerpts] If 'Arafat's wish had been granted, and if he had come to pray in Al-Aqsa today, he would have found thousands of confused and hopeful Palestinians. Is the meeting in Cairo a turning point, or has 'Arafat come full circle? Has he returned to being a puppet in the hands of the Egyptians and the Jordanians as he was 30 years ago when he was a student in Cairo?

[Mustafa Dudin, former chairman of the Association of Area Village Leagues — in English] I don't think this is a closing of a circle for 'Arafat, but I believe 'Arafat will be turned from a revolutionary leader to a political leader. He has no other choice. For that, I think he should put his hands in the hands of President Mubarak and King Husayn.

[Sadan — in English] What does it mean in political terms, that he will now be a political leader?

[Dudin — in English] I think now he is satisfied that through military means he cannot achieve anything, and there is no other way except direct negotiations with Israel, and this should be through Egypt and Jordan.

[Sadan — in English] So, despite everything, you are pessimistic.

[Dudin — in English] Yes, yes, because we should consider what the Israeli side is thinking. It is not the problem of the Arabs, but I believe when 'Arafat comes to King Husayn and to Mubarak, the ball will be in the Israeli court.

[Sadan] The East Jerusalem papers today reacted with caution to the summit in the Al-Qubbah Palace. Only *AL-QUDS* went as far as writing, in its editorial, that this might be as momentous a development as the As-Sadat initiative but one which will enable Egypt to free itself from the Camp David accords. *AL-FAJR* writes that it is 'Arafat of all people who proved his military ability in Beirut and in Tripoli who will undertake the political initiative, even if Fatah's Central Committee is not happy with the Cairo visit.

[(Basha Bakh Bakh), *AL-FAJR* editor — in English] Well, I do believe and it is my opinion that 'Arafat should have consulted the Executive Committee of Fatah. However, I do not condemn his visit to Egypt. I believe it could provide fruitful results. In fact, some of the results of that trip have already occurred, and that is the Israeli bitter reaction to it. I believe that the Israelis are much more worried about the Egyptians' pulling towards the Palestinian side, rather than the Palestinians' pulling toward the Egyptian side.

[Sadan — in English] So, what's next?

[(Bakh Bakh — in English] Well, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] said yesterday that there is a good possibility that there might be military activities within the area here, against the Israelis. Hwoever, it is very obvious that the Palestinians militarily are restricted, simply because the Egyptians, the Syrians, and the Jordanians will not allow them to use their territory against Israel. So, the military dimension has decreased, and decreased drastically. So, I would assume there will be much more emphasis on the political option, the political option within the Fes conference, realizing that self-determination for the Palestinians and the establishment of a Palestinian state is an irreduceable minimum for the Palestinians.

[Sadan] Judaea and Samaria have waited a long time for a political event from which to initiate change. Egypt has been forgiven for the Camp David sin, and eyes are turned, as in the past, toward Cairo and Amman.

Palestinian Notables Condemn Meeting

TA251947 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Dec 83

[Text] Our Arab affairs correspondent reports that three Palestinian notables in the territories, in an interview to the *AL-HURRIYAH* paper today, condemned the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting. The three are deposed Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah, deposed Janin Mayor Ahmad Shawki, and the head of the women's organizations in the territories, Samira Khalil. The three say that the meeting will exacerbate the rift [shever] in the Palestinian issue. These are the initial voices heard in the territories against the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting.

AL-FAJR on 'Arafat's Visit

JN271746 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 23 Dec 83 p 1

[Editorial: "What 'Arafat's Cairo Visit Means"]

[Text] On the eve of the Palestinian forces' departure from Tripoli, political observers were of the opinion that this departure might be the beginning of political accomplishments which the PLO can achieve in the service of the Palestine question and within the framework of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, despite all that the Palestinian military action has encountered.

Perhaps Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo yesterday took place with this idea, particularly since France and Egypt presented a working document to the UN Security Council during the siege of Beirut in 1982. The aim of this document was to find a solution guaranteeing the Palestinian people's future, considering this future the crux of the intricate Middle East crisis.

It is appropriate to indicate the most important articles of the French-Egyptian working document. These are: Recognition of the right of all the region's states to existence; Guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and what this entails; Representation of the the Palestinian people in any negotiations on the crisis, a matter which means that the PLO must take part in these negotiations; Reciprocal and simultaneous recognition of all the concerned parties. Hence, Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with the Egyptian president may lead to the revival of a large-scale political movement through international legitimacy, and represented by the Secu-

rity Council and the United Nations, for the sake of gaining more international support for the question, particularly the support of the Soviet Union and the United States, which are the two superpowers. This will certainly break the stalemate that surrounds the political initiatives on the Middle East conflict and lead to an initiative capable of promoting political action in the Arab arena seeking a common denominator acceptable to all the parties to the conflict.

Finally, we would like to indicate that Yasir 'Arafat, who led the battle to prove Palestinian existence in Beirut and rescued his men from the wild conspiratorial onslaught in Tripoli, can move politically in a manner that will ensure the Palestinian people's welfare and guarantee the attainment of their aspirations free from all forms of retreat or deviation from the Palestinian march.

AL-QUDS on Meeting

JN271808 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Dec 83 pp 1,11

[Editorial: The Sudden Meeting and the Equation]

[Text] It was said previously that no war can take place without Egypt and no peace without Syria. Now that Egypt has moved itself out of the circle of war, does this mean that the possibilities of war have been removed? Syria still adheres to the second part of the equation. What we have witnessed in Al-Biqa' and Tripoli has only been an attempt by Syria to prove to the world, particularly the United States, that the road to the Middle East must pass through Damascus, and that peace must knock at the Syrian door first; otherwise, there will be no peace, talks, dialogue, or neighborliness.

However, this exciting, sudden, unexpected, and quick meeting between the PLO chairman and the Egyptian president has dealt a painful, if not a knockout blow to the second part of the equation.

We imagine that the Syrian policymakers are biting their fingers out of regret for the way they behaved toward the PLO. They feel shortsighted for having besieged 'Arafat in Tripoli, forcing him to leave the city filled with bitterness and indignation.

The Palestine-Egypt meeting, following a long rupture of relations, might be no less exciting and effective than President as-Sadat's initiative when he visited Jerusalem. The meeting might also be no less important than As-Sadat's visit as a turning point in Middle East policy.

Egypt has repeatedly declared that it adheres to the Camp David accords; but it will find an outlet to free itself from these accords, particularly since these accords had split into three agreements before the ink with which they were written had dried. First, there is the agreement, as understood by As-Sadat, which includes full autonomy for the Palestinians with complete control over the territory, the right to self-determination that would follow a transitional period, and the freezing of settlements during a 5-year period with eventually, a full withdrawal; second, there is Carter's interpretation that basically supports As-Sadat's interpretation; and third, there is Begin's interpretation that calls for administrative rule not autonomy, no control over the land, no legislative rights, continuation of building settlements with only a 3-month halt, no withdrawal, and no Palestinian right to self-determination.

Egypt's insistence on its interpretation of the Camp David accords will provide it with the approach and the excuse for reconsidering its attitude toward them and for liberating itself from their restrictions.

This astonishing quickness that led 'Arafat to Cairo is a major proof of self-confidence — a confidence that cannot remain high in a person who was forced to leave his command's headquarters. This self-confidence indicates that 'Arafat's step was not improvised, but was well-studied and well-calculated. It also indicates that it will be followed with other steps.

We are most certain that this Palestinian-Egyptian meeting has greatly shocked Israel, which has looked at it with anger, denunciation, and pain.

Israel had been greatly reinvigorated during the wars and war threats, but it will not be reinvigorated the same way during peace. Thus, Israel looks at the Palestinian-Egyptian meeting with anger and pain because it is a meeting for peace.

Jerusalem Arabic on Syrian Claim to USSR Support

JN251651 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 25 Dec 83

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: Muhammad Haydar, the officer in charge of foreign affairs in the Syrian Ba'th Party, has told the Beirut paper *ASH-SHIRA'* that Syria would be prepared to enlist the support of Soviet forces against any U.S. aggression if it became necessary.

We are not here to discuss what Haydar called U.S. aggression. First, we are not defenders of the United States, and second, such cliches and expressions are only part of the demagoguery practiced by the Syrian Ba'thist regime's propaganda media.

However, Haydar's statement that Syria would be prepared to call in the Soviet forces gives the impression that the Damascus rulers imagine that the USSR is there at their behest to be called at any time to serve their regime and belligerency in Lebanon and the region. But the Damascus rulers have not been known to be so naive as to imagine that they can easily involve the USSR in an armed confrontation with the United States. This is because everyone knows that the two superpowers have always been very careful not to get involved in a direct confrontation in local or regional conflicts.

If the Damascus rulers are not naive, the observer cannot but conclude that Haydar's statement or brandishing of the Soviet card is no more than a smokescreen. If anything, it indicates two well-known facts: The first is the Damascus rulers' feeling that their position is weak and that they will have to descend from the high pedestal on which they placed themselves or were placed by

the USSR in Lebanon; The second is the increased isolation of the Syrian Ba'thist regime in the Arab and international spheres, an isolation which has become more strangulating after the recent Tripoli incidents.

At any rate, if either of the two sides in the existing alliances between the Kremlin and Damascus rulers is an instrument or a pawn in the service of the other's objectives and policies, then it is definite that the USSR is not an instrument or a pawn in the hands of the Damascus rulers.

'Unrest, Tension' Reported in Aleppo

JN261748 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] The Paris-based magazine *AT-TALI'AH AL-'ARABIYAH* has stated that unrest and tension prevail in the Syrian city of Aleppo after the Syrian authorities issued a decree ordering shops to close at 1800 every evening. The magazine has also cited travellers who arrived in Baghdad from Syria as saying that 12 Muslim Brotherhood members were arrested recently in the Maydan area after two leaders of the Syrian Ba'th Party arrived in the city.

The magazine added that the Syrian authorities arrested members of the Palestinian Workers Union who participated in the union's economic conference in Tunis. The magazine also pointed out that Palestinian doctors living in Syria who participated in the Tunis conference have refused to return to Damascus for fear of being arrested.

Land Acquisition in Jerusalem by Jews Opposed

TA271426 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Dec 83 p 2

[Repot by Tova Tzimuqi]

[Text] "The national institutions" of the Arabs of the West Bank and East Jerusalem have set aside enormous sums of money in order to prevent the acquisition of buildings in the Muslim Quarter of the Old City by Jews.

The Arab leadership in the West Bank and Jerusalem has lately expressed much concern over Israeli attempts to buy buildings and take over the Muslim Quarter.

These attemps are manifested in large financial offers, pressure, and threats to Arab residents to sell their property to Israeli public bodies.

The *DAVAR* correspondent has learned that Jews who want to acquire property in the Muslim Quarter are also raising funds in order to hurry up and offer the Arab owners large sums of money. Rabbis living abroad also participate in this fund.

The public committee that was recently set up by right-wing members is discussing the possibility of a national campaign which would return Jewish property in the Muslim Quarter to Jewish hands.

One night last week, MK Yehuda Perah and Minister Yuval Ne'eman's adviser, Avi Farhan, toured the Muslim Quarter and located what they claim to be Jewish property from ancient times.

A regular allowance of money is sent to East Jerusalem, and especially to the Waqf, by Jordan. Money also flows to Arab public institutions through the joint PLO-Jordanian committee which sits in Amman.

A large proportion of this money will be dedicated to fighting Jewish efforts to purchase and take over the Muslim Quarter.

LIBYA

JANA Editor Scores Egyptian Diplomacy

LD291032 Tripoli JANA in English 0852 GMT 29 Dec 83

["JANA Political Editor Exposes Egyptian Regime Diplomacy" — JANA headline]

[Text] Cairo, Rabi al Awal 24, Dec 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Deputy Foreign Minister of the Egyptian regime Usamah al-Baz yesterday said that Israel was wrong to describe 'Arafat's visit to Egypt as an obstacle in the way of peace. According to his words, 'Arafat should be considered as the voice of justice and moderation in the Palestinian movement. JANA's political editor commented on Al-Baz's speech by saying:

(?No) matter how ambigious it was, Al-Baz's announcement reflects the true nature of the Egyptian regime's diplomacy which (?is) submission and surrender. After losing its credibility as a consequence of signing the Camp David accords, Egyptian diplomacy was left with nothing but to please the Zionist enemy by repeating words of apology and submission. [words indistinct] announcements of Husni Mubarak and other leaders of the present Egyptian regime have, in fact, always coincided with this framework.

It is a pity that Egypt is now taking the same tactics that the enemy was adopting before the late As-Sadat's ill fated visit. The major objective now is to court the enemy so as not to break off the deformed relationship established after Camp David.

Hence come out the appeals of Husni Mubarak and Usamah al-Baz to convince the Zionist terrorists that 'Arafat's meeting with the Egyptian president would do no harm to the interests of the Zionist entity. In short, Mubarak's regime is collaborating with the Zionist enemy in its conspiracy against the Arab nation.

Austria's Kreisky Makes Statement Before Leaving

LD281928 Tripoli JANA in English 1813 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli's Rabi al Awal 23, Dec 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The former federal chancellor of Austria, Bruno Kreisky, has said that he was impressed with the new concept of people's authority and direct democracy practiced in Libya.

He said in a statement before his departure this afternoon, "I voluntarily attended a session of the Basic People's Congress and listened with enthusiasm to the discussion conducted in that congress and other congresses through the TV. I sincerely say that I have learned a lot from this experience."

Chancellor Kreisky added that these congresses are practically a "solid base for practicing democracy, although I do not know what the congresses would decide later.

"There was an obvious fact to me that all the discussions were conducted in a very rational and responsible way and that the people, unlike other countries, do not hypocritically praise their leaders." He said that criticism was strong and direct, which is the base for proper democracy and therefore "I would like here to congratulate the Libyan people for adopting this safe way of rule."

Chancellor Kreisky also told a JANA reporter that the great canal project, which is now underway, is considered one of the biggest projects in our time.

On the current political situation in the area, Kreisky said: "I am pleased and satisfied with the attitude of my good friend, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who gives great attention the Palestinian cause.

All peace-loving peoples are concerned about the explosive situation in the Lebanon. There is a great need to exert every possible effort to calm down the situation there".

MAURITANIA

President Affirms Readiness To Recognize SDAR

LD281143 Algiers APS in English 1007 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Nouakchott, 28/12/83 (APS) — President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, Mauritanian head of state, reaffirmed his government's intention to recognize the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SDAR) if a referendum is not organised in Western Sahara.

Receiving on Tuesday the diplomatic body accredited in Nouakchott, for the traditional presentation of wishes, President Haydala declared that Mauritania is ready to revise its position in the sense of the recognition of SDAR there is no way open to enable. [sentence as received] The Saharan people to exercise effectively their right to self-determination wishing that unity and good understanding between peoples of the sub-region be preserved, the Mauritanian president said: We reiterate our fervent wishes so that the Moroccan Kingdom accept the implementation of the resolutions of the 19th OAU summit in 1983, and start direct negotiations with the Polisario front so as to find a specific solution to this conflict". [quotemarks, sentence as received]

The Mauritanian head of state said the return of peace to Western Sahara is the only means to restore the atmosphere of confidence and solidarity which has always characterised the relations of the countries of the Arab Maghreb.

Haydala Speaks to Diplomatic Corps 27 Dec

AB281310 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Speech delivered by President Khouna Ould Haydala on receiving the new year wishes of the diplomatic corps in Nouakchott on 27 December — recorded]

[Excerpts] Mr Doyen of the diplomatic corps, ambassadors, representatives of international organizations, and honorary consuls:

The end of the year is a good occasion to meet with the family you constitute in order to celebrate the advent of the new year which, we hope, will bring peace and progress for all mankind. It is also an occasion to measure the progress made in the creation of a better future for all the peoples of the world. This better future, which all of us are eagerly looking forward to, will unfortunately remain a vain wish as long as the resources of this earth are not devoted to the only thing that is worthwhile — the struggle against war and underdevelopment.

In this connection, the growing number of hotbeds of tension in the world and the resulting threats to international peace and security is not at all comforting. In order to maintain these hotbeds — which are, in fact,veritable insidious wars — certain powers have been striving, toward the end of this 20th century, to spend fabulous amounts of money in research and in the fabrication of increasingly sophisticated arms. At the same time, 75 percent of mankind is living, alas, in misery, hunger, ignorance, and disease. We are increasingly worried by the fact that the negotiations on the limitation of strategic arms are in a deadlock and that destructive weapons are being deployed everywhere. In view of the escalation of the tension between the two blocs, we solemnly appeal to the conscience of the leaders of the superpowers to save the world from a collective genocide and therefore avoid the disappearance of mankind. In fact, the leaders of the superpowers have a heavy responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security.

This peace and security, which are so vital, are also constantly threatened by the increasing gulf between the rich nations and the poor countries. To avoid all risks of tension and even war, we think that it is necessary to establish a new international economic order that will be just and equitable. The establishment of this new order remains the most effective remedy against the crisis that has been shaking the industrialized world for some decades now and that very adversely affects the fragile economies of developing countries like ours. In fact, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania — which is one of the states most affected by the consequences of the world economic crisis — experienced this year an unprecedented drought that has assumed the nature of a veritable calamity.

Mr Doyen and ambassadors, Mauritania, which is a peaceful and nonaligned country, will always work for a better understanding among peoples. It is in this spirit that we reiterate our urgent appeal to the international community to assume its full responsibility toward the anachronistic Pretoria regime. We reaffirm our active solidarity with the Azanian people as well as with its vanguard movement, the ANC. Concerning the independence of Namibia, we call on the United Nations to assume all its responsibilities. In fact, despite all its efforts, the Western contact group has demonstrated its incapacity to make the Pretoria government see reason.

In the northwestern part of our continent, the conflict in Western Sahara, which has been going on for almost 9 years, continues to worry us. Our position concerning this conflict that is taking place on our borders is based on the principle of the inalienable and indefeasible right of peoples to self-determination and independence, and the search for all solutions capable of safeguarding unity and understanding among the peoples of the subregion.

We reiterate our fervent hope that the brotherly Kingdom of Morocco will agree to apply the resolutions of the 19th summit conference of the OAU and open direct negotiations with the Polisario Front in order to find a peaceful solution to this stupid conflict. If no way is opened for the effective exercise of the Saharan people's right to self-determination, our country will be compelled to review its position concerning the recognition of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic without modifying in any way our attitude of neutrality with regard to the conflict between the two brotherly peoples.

Mr Doyen and ambassadors, in the name of the Mauritanian people, their Military Committee of National Salvation and their government, and in my own name, I wish to express to you, to your families, to your heads of state, as well as to the governments and organizations you represent, my best wishes of health, happiness, peace, and well-being. I also ask you to convey to your respective governments and organizations our infinite gratitude for the considerable support and assistance they are giving us in the difficult moments being experienced by our country.

MOROCCO

King Hassan Speech Urges National Solidarity

LD281519 Rabat MAP in English 1230 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Rabat, Dec 28 (MAP) — King Hassan II of Morocco delivered on Tuesday evening a nationwide speech appealing for national solidarity.

The sovereign first evoked the deep affliction felt by the grand Moroccan family following the death of the late Prince Moulay 'Abdallah and which was an eloquent evidence of the extraordinary symbiosis existing between the royal family and the people.

The sovereign then stressed the virtues of national solidarity which have always enabled the Moroccan nation to face all kinds of covetousness and to carry on its march in glory and grandeur, continuously striving to create the necessary environment and appropriate circumstances so that the Moroccan family remains united with solidarity.

Recalling the message he had addressed to the House of Representatives in which he evoked the economic situation in Morocco, King Hassan II noted that this situation is not inherent to Morocco, but in general has affected all the countries of the world in various ways, depending on their trade exchanges and economic resources.

In Morocco, the monarch pointed out, our financial, and not economic situation has suffered from the conjugation of several factors, mainly three successive years of drought, the deterioration of trade exchanges, and the country's increasing needs in hard currency. Regarding this last factor, King Hassan II cited as an instance Morocco's oil bill: This bill was of 30 billion centimes in 1973 and has jumped to 700 billion centimes in 1983.

The sovereign then said that he had not evoked among these factors war expenses, because Morocco will always be at war.

Morocco is a peace-loving country, but given its geographic and strategic situation, given its economic potentialities, and given its human resources, it will always be in a state of self-defense. Morocco is for peace and co-existence, but it must pay a tribute for its weight (on the international arena), its geographic situation (at the gate of a strait), its political and economic system, and its religion which is based on Islam and Sunna. For all these reasons, the monarch went on, war expenses must not be evoked.

After he recalled the resort to foreign debts and the efforts that were stepped up to reach a financial and economic balance, King Hassan II evoked the price rise of basic products. This rise, he said, must respond to one main condition: It is those who are well provided for who must pay for the classes with low incomes, in an outburst of national solidarity.

If there is any kind of emulation and competition it must take place in the context of this national solidarity, the monarch stated before announcing that a census will be undertaken shortly to determine those who are well off and those who are poor and who mostly need assistance.

Recalling the last census of the population, the sovereign pointed out that it was aimed at defining the structure of the population and at determining the bases on which the Morocco of the next century will be edified, while the next census will be aimed at defining the various social categories so that the rich have solidarity with the poor.

King Hassan II then explained that this census will take place at the level of the communes, then at the level of the provinces and finally at the level of the nation, adding that the minister of the interior will determine this Wednesday on radio and TV the modalities of the census.

This census, the sovereign went on, must be started as early as tomorrow and must be finished within 20 or 25 days "because we have no time to lose," as the Moroccan people must start another census, that of the aptitudes and competences that must represent it (people) at the parliament whose opening is scheduled for the second Friday of next April.

King Hassan Appoints Interior Ministry Official

LD281508 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Rabat, Dec 28 (MAP) — King Hassan II of Morocco Tuesday received Mr Rachidi Ghazouani [spelling of name as received] and nominated him Under-Secretary of State of Interior in charge of national development.

It is more dignifying, the monarch, said, to help the nationals by ensuring them employment. Therefore it was decided that the various services of the department of national development, which were a bit dispersed, be regrouped within the home ministry — otherwise, specified the monarch, it could not carry out its mission.

Obviously, King Hassan went on, all what concerns agriculture and public utilities will also concern this department, but the monarch pointed out, its natural framework is the home ministry.

After affirming his trust in Mr Ghazouani, the monarch wished him success in his mission, underlining that the under-secretary's presence in Rabat was "desirable," but that it was preferable that his presence be "everywhere in Morocco," assuring him that the planes and helicopters will be at his disposal so that he could carry out his mission in the best possible conditions. The monarch also assured him that "all financial means will be made available to you... and it would be therefore possible to help the needy — even those who refuse out of pride to recognize their condition — and who should be preferably helped from the educational and economic points of view."

After this address, Mr Rachidi Ghazouani took the oath before the monarch.

Boucetta Interviewed on Maghreb, Ties With Qatar

LD281548 Rabat MAP in English 1209 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Doha, Dec 28 (MAP) — Moroccan Minister of State M'hamed Boucetta affirmed that the mediation efforts undertaken by the United Arab Emirates between Morocco and Algeria have "helped ease tension between the two neighbouring countries and paved the way for a summit meeting between King Hassan II of Morocco and President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria".

In an interview with the Qatari review *AL-AHD*, Mr Boucetta, who was dealing with the situation in northwest Africa, indicated that the current tension in the region was artificial and that neither Morocco nor Algeria benefit from the tension.

"It is for these reasons," M. Boucetta underlined, "that Morocco has favorably responded to the United Arab Emirates' mediation".

Regarding the construction of the Grand Arab Maghreb, the minister of state recalled that Morocco was among the first to call for the materialization of such an ideal and that it was still striving to realize this goal, where the interest of the peoples of the region lies.

The unity of the Maghreb constitutes the only solution to the problems facing the northwest African Arab countries, at the economic and social level, and at the level of legitimate defense as well, Mr Boucetta went on.

The minister of state finally hailed the friendly relations existing between the Moroccan and Qatari peoples and the fruitful cooperation existing between the two countries.

SUDAN

Egyptian Foreign Minister Delivers Message

JN281117 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Dec (SUNA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here this afternoon with a message to President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The mes-

sage deals with the recent developments in the Arab and African arenas.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali is expected to acquaint President Numayri with the results of the talks that were held between President Mubarak and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo last Thursday.

'Arafat Meeting, U.S. Visit Discussed

NC281725 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Dec (MENA) — Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has received a message from President Mubarak on the latest developments in the Arab region and Africa. Numayri received the message during his meeting today with Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who arrived in Khartoum earlier today.

Following the meeting, 'Ali said he conveyed a verbal message from President Mubarak to President Numayri. He said the message dealt with the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting in Cairo and briefed Numayri on the details of the discussions during that meeting.

'Ali said he thoroughly briefed President Numayri on his recent talks in Washington with the U.S. side regarding the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel; boosting the peace efforts in the area; U.S. concern over Reagan's initiative and enhancing efforts at bringing about a settlement; and the maintenance of relations with the Arab countries.

Holds Press Conference, Departs

JN281847 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1735 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Dec (SUNA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foriegn minister, held a press conference at Khartoum airport today prior to leaving for home. He said that he discussed with President Numayri several topics concerning bilateral relations between the brotherly countries and the projects of integration between them.

Answering a question on whether Yasir 'Arafat will accept a solution to the Palestinian question based on Reagan's plan or the Arab peace plan that the recent Arab summit approved, 'Ali said that it is still premature for a specific formula. He added that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his statements prior to his departure from Tripoli in northern Lebanon, in which he said that he is going to resume dialogue with the Jordanian monarch, constitute a new trend by Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO for a political solution to the Palestine question. He affirmed in this regard that the majority of the PLO members support 'Arafat's new trend, particularly since the positions of all the parties that are concerned with the Palestinian question are now obvious.

'Ali noted that all those who have made statements against 'Arafat's visit to Cairo — with some Arab capitals rejecting the visit — are trying to deprive the PLO of practicing its independent will. He said: Let us wait for the outcome of 'Arafat's upcoming meetings in San'a' and Tunis with the concerned PLO organs.

In another development, Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak, Sudanese foreign minister, said that Kamal Hasan 'Ali will visit Sudan next February to attend a meeting between the two ministries in order to coordinate diplomatic moves on various levels and to discuss various issues of integration.

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister Praises Saudi Policy

LD241416 Riyadh SPA in English 1200 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Jidda, Dec. 24, SPA — Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi has hailed the Kingdom's pivotal role and its effective contribution to regain Arab unity and solidarity under the leadership of HM King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

In an interview published by the daily *'UKAZ* today, es-Sebsi described the Kingdom's policy as "wise," and said it seeks to heal Arab rifts and enhances Arab unity to "confront challenges before the two Arab and Islamic nations."

He said constant consultations were continuing between the Saudi monarch and President Habib Bourguiba on Arab causes and ways of reinstalling peace in the region.

The Tunisian official called for good preparations for the upcoming Arab summit in Riyadh in order to enable the summit to adopt resolutions that will serve Arab interests and boost their struggle to recover their usurped rights.

Es-Sebsi regretted the continuation of war between Iran and Iraq and described it as a "great tragedy." He appealed to the two warring states' officials to "stop bloodshed between their two peoples and direct their forces to fight the Israeli enemy." Es-Sebsi praised Iraq's initiative to stop fighting and sit to negotiate and iron out differences with Iranian leaders.

Regarding relations between the Kingdom and Tunisia, Es-Sebsi described them as "excellent, and historically based on mutual respect and friendship."

ETHIOPIA

S. African Attacks on Angola 'Strongly Condemned'

EA281842 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Socialist Ethiopia has strongly condemned the recent attack by racist and terrorist South Africa on the People's Republic of Angola and has reaffirmed her full support for the struggle waged by the people and Government of Angola, to safeguard their national integrity and sovereignty.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today disclosed that Socialist Ethiopia learned of the attack by the racist South African regime on the Republic of Angola with dismay and resentment. The Foreign Ministry statement pointed out that the racist Pretoria regime has been continually carrying out economic sabotage and military attacks on neighboring countries. In such attacks, the Republic of Angola has been the target. The statement added that the Pretoria regime has identified itself with the so-called UNITA, a bunch of bandits, which has carried out repeated and inhuman attacks on the Republic of Angola.

The Foreign Ministry further stated that campaign waged against this fraternal country is not only aimed at subverting the current revolutionary movement and destabilizing the country's progressive party and (?government), but is also aimed at delaying the independence of Namibia.

The ministry further urged the world community to strengthen its current campaign to cut off the Pretoria regime from the world community and called on peace-loving people and governments to step up financial and material aid to the South African liberation movement.

SOMALIA

Two Eritrean Liberation Fronts Hold Joint Meeting

EA271536 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] A meeting of the two Eritrean liberation fronts, the ELF [Eritrean Liberation Front] and EPLA [Popular Front for the Liberation of Eritrea] was recently held in Mogadishu to discuss ways of uniting their forces in the fight for freedom against a common enemy. The meeting, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, reached complete understanding on all issues, the parties having realized the need for unity, cooperation, and joint struggle for rights. The leaders and delegates in attendance collectively thanked all supporters of their just struggle and those who believe in peaceful coexistence and self-determination.

30 Said Killed in 'Fierce Fighting' in Mudug Region

EA282058 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Fierce fighting has taken place around (Bur Yaqab) village in the Mudug region between members of the general public and the loyalist troops of the terror regime of Siad Barre which resulted in the deaths and destruction of the Barre soldiers.

The fighting started when units of the Barre soldiers forcibly attempted to conscript Somali youths into the loyalist troops and to loot property from members of the public.

In the ensuing fighting, 23 loyalist soldiers were killed and many wounded. The members of the general public who armed themselves in the encounter lost only seven people.

Defections to DFSS Reported

EA282045 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Two groups of former loyalist troops of dictator Siad Barre have defected and joined the armed struggle of the Somali opposition forces.

Reports reaching us from the bases of the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forces, states that two groups of soldiers, accompanied by members of the general public, have defected to the DFSS to take part in the armed struggle being waged against dictator Siad's regime.

The troops, along with members of the public who have now joined the armed struggle, brought vehicles and weapons with them. One group of soldiers and civilians numbered 100 and had light rifles and one U.S.-made vehicle of the (?James) type. This is one of the military vehicles that the Reagan administration gave to terror regime of Siad Barre.

The second group of soldiers who defected to the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the DFSS wing numbered 14 and had one jeep mounted with a field gun, one armored personnel carrier, and one Fiat vehicle.

The reports say that both groups of soldiers were stationed in Nugaal Region at (Botin Leh) village.

GHANA

Public Reminded Curfew Hours Still in Effect

AB281820 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The public is reminded that the curfew hours have not been changed. The hours are still 0000 to 0430. The public is being called upon to ignore any rumors about change in the curfew hours.

IVORY COAST

Budget Reflects 'Difficult' Economic Situation

AB272230 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Now we know the 1984 national budget. The recurring budget amounts to 426.85 billion CFA, while the Special Investment and Equipment Budget [BSIE capital budget] amounts to 241.949 billion CFA. The draft budget was introduced this morning by Economy and Finance Minister Abdoulaye Kone to the members of the Finance Committee at a meeting attended by all the assemblymen.

The budget reflects the difficult economic situation which is aggravated by the poor weather conditions experienced by our country. In spite of these constraints the Ivory Coast is determined to continue its progress. Let us listen to Minister Kone who concludes his report:

[Begin Kone recording] This budget is characterized in terms of receipts by the modest level of internal revenues — 16.3 percent of the BSIE. This is due to the fall in the prices of coffee and cocoa. The government, therefore, wants to pursue the assigned objectives — the acquisition of foreign loans notably from international organizations and foreign governments for the achievement of some of our projects.

Concerning the expenditures, the 1984 BSIE was prepared with the desire to give priority to a variety of sectors. In the field of agriculture, efforts are aimed at promoting food crops through integrated programs inplemented by such agricultural development firms as the Ivorian Textiles Development Company,the Technical Assistance Company for the Agricultural Modernization of the Ivory Coast, the Company for the Development and Exploitation of Oil Palm, and so on. In the sphere of education, priority will be given to the diversification of advanced training.

In the field of communications, the efforts begun in the past will be pursued, notably in the sector of roads [words indistinct], and to keep in good repair the projects already implemented in other sectors.

In conclusion, despite the difficulties resulting from an unfavorable world economic situation, the government wants to implement certain public projects in order to boost economic activities and ensure, under the supreme leadership of President Houphouet-Boigny, the social and economic development of the country, and the promotion of each Ivorian. [end recording]

LIBERIA

Israeli Ambassador Meets With Defense Minister

AB282155 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The Israeli ambassador to Liberia, Mr Gavri'el Gavri'eli, today paid a courtesy call on Defense Minister Major General Gray Allison at the Defense Ministry in Monrovia. During the visit, Minister Allison briefed the Israeli ambassador on some of the projects being undertaken by the Defense Ministry. The Israeli envoy said his visit to the ministry was to acquaint himself with the Defense Ministry's operations and to make new friends. He promised his government's support and assistance to the Defense Ministry in its development projects.

The chief of staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia, Lieutenant General Henry Dunbar, and other top officials of the Defense Ministry were present at the meeting.

Trial of 19 'Alleged Coup Plotters' Delayed

AB282050 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The trial of the 19 alleged coup plotters did not begin today at the special military tribunal as scheduled. According to LINA [LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY], the trial could not start because of administrative and legal reasons. No specific date was given by the chairman of the tribunal, Major General Alfred Gayflor, but LINA says the chairman hinted that the time for the resumption will be made public before the end of this week.

The trial began yesterday but was put off until today because the defense counsel contended that the prosecution did not furnish him with the charges and specifications of the crime as levelled against the accused.

NIGERIA

Official Discourages Withdrawal From OPEC

AB282220 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The secretary to the Federal Government, Alhaji Shehu Musa, said in Kano yesterday that Nigeria's economy will be worsened if the country opted out of OPEC. Alhaji Shehu, who said that he was airing a personal view, told newsmen at Government House, Kano, that it was through the efforts of OPEC that Nigeria's competitors were restrained. He said that if any OPEC member produced more than its quota, it will worsen the gluts in already biased [as heard] oil markets.

SENEGAL

Confederal Assembly Meets; Bureau Elected

AB282140 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The Confederal Assembly met this morning in an extraordinary session. Three items were on the agenda: electing the confederal bureau, drafting standing orders, and drafting a confederal budget. There are 40 Senegalese parliamentarians and 20 Gambian parliamentarians in this confederal parliament, and they were all present this morning due to the importance of the event. The bureau of the Confederal Assembly was elected, and its chairman is Mr Mamoudou Babacar Ndiaye, speaker of the Gambian Parliament. The first deputy speaker is Mr Habib Thiam. Second deputy speaker is Mariane Soaye, and, finally, the third deputy speaker is Mrs Louis Ndiaye.

Elected secretaries are Famara Mane, Tanib Ben Soda, and Ismaila Diagne. Questors are Kabir Nbodje and Kelefa Sambu.

After the opening address by the speaker of the Confederal Assembly, Mr Mamoudou Babakar Ndiaye, the Confederal Assembly adopted the standing orders submitted by Parliamentarian Abdoulaye Diop. The standing orders consist of 177 articles and 28 chapters which define the role, tasks, and powers of the Parliament.

TOGO

Eyadema Receives Polisario Delegation 28 Dec

AB282215 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] A Polisario delegation led by Ould Sidati, secretary general of the SDAR Presidency, was received at State House this morning by President Gnassingbe Eyadema. Mr Sidati, who brought a message from SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz, was accompanied by (Ahmed al-Haib Wadabi), SDAR ambassador to West Africa. The mission fell within the framework of SDAR-Togolese consultations.

UPPER VOLTA

'Millions of Citizens' To Get Weapons Training

AB281505 Paris AFP in English 1155 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Ouagadougou, Dec 28 (AFP) — Upper Volta's Armed Forces are prepared to teach "millions of citizens" how to handle weapons, Minister of State Blaise Compaore told students starting a course of military and political training.

Following a speech by Head of State Captain Thomas Sankara here earlier this month, promising military training to young people, 290 students from various parts of the country were yesterday beginning a four-day course at Po, the military camp in the south from which the August 4 revolution was launched. The state radio said they would be taught to handle light weapons, anti-tank rockets and explosives, and given elementary combat and map-reading training. Upper Volta has an estimated population in 1975 of around six million. Captain Compaore, commander at Po and effectively number two in the regime, said "it was up to the people to defend themselves," the radio reported.

A source close to the national secretariat of the local Revolutionary Defence Committees (CDR's) said earlier this month all "revolutionary militants" would receive military training, but would not be permanently armed.

Meanwhile the secretary-general of the country's Trade Union for Teachers in Secondary and Higher Education (SUVESS), Etienne Lynre, warned the government against any attempt to dominate the trade unions by means of the CDR's, which have been set up at [word indistinct] levels of employment.

Mr Traore, addressing the union's 12th congress yesterday, expressed his organization's solidarity with the government's "anti-imperialist and democratic" policies. But he warned that the [word indistinct] would oppose "a certain tendency to substitute the CDR's for the trade unions" in the service sector, which gave them priority in dealing with ministers or directors of departments. He called on the authorities to make clear how they saw the unions in relation to the CDR's.

The government is expected to define the status of the CDR's next month, particularly in connection with that of the trade unions, which are particularly powerful in Upper Volta and have brought about the fall of more than one regime.

Official Seeks Definition of Union Role

AB281210 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Yesterday evening at the Ouagadougou Labor Exchange, the 12th Congress of the Sole Upper Voltan Union of Teachers of Secondary and Higher Education [SUVESS] began around the theme: the trade union movement and the anti-imperialist struggle. Emmanuel Dadjouari, minister of national education, arts, and culture, and Issa Tiendrebeogo, minister of higher education and scientific research, elaborated on this topic in their opening speeches.

In this connection, Comrade Dadjouari recalled the historic December 1982 meeting between the SUVESS and the Army's progressive wing. On that occasion, Captain Thomas Sankara delivered a militant address to the 11th SUVESS Congress, which resulted in an alliance between revolutionary forces in the civilian and military sectors. For his part, Comrade Tiendrebeogo appealed for a mobilization of the Upper Voltan people in order to complete the 4 August victory over international imperialism.

SUVESS Secretary General Etienne Traore began by examining the national political situation before pledging the union's support for the 4 August proclamation against imperialism. He later called on the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] to define its conception of the role of the trade union in the current revolutionary process:

[Begin Traore recording] In conformity with our correct understanding of trade union independence in relation to the new government which came to power on 4 August, the SUVESS has reacted favorably to the regime's anti-imperialist proclamation — the first in our country's history — and to its desire to involve the working masses in all decisions which concern their lives. In this regard, the CNR endorses our union's anti-imperialist and democratic objective. Consequently, we will support all actions which help achieve this dual objective and satisfy the general demand for greater respect for the dignity of our people. We also support the organization of our country's food supply by the Upper Voltans themselves; the new approach to the border dispute with Mali; the popularization of people's struggles, notably in Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America; and the rehabilitation of our national culture.

However, the SUVESS will also unmask and criticize all acts which run counter to these principles and to the interests of its militants and workers. Thus, while recognizing the real efforts of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] and their political (?struggle), the SUVESS is worried over the fact that in some provinces, civil servants — including militants — are taken for thieves worthy of denunciation as reactionaries. Within the service sector, the SUVESS will oppose the tendency of trying to replace trade unions with CDR's. It will also oppose efforts to make the latter the main organization capable of holding talks with the minister or service director. Such cases have been noted at the Department of National Education. As far as we are concerned, the CDR's are political organizations which trade unionists may join if they wish. [applause] Although, in principle, trade unions and service CDR's — both of which are anti-imperialist — should cooperate, differences may arise, because the two organizations have and must have different characteristics and objectives. As one might expect, these differences may result in either a complementary or antagonistic relationship, depending upon the attitude of those authorities responsible for the CDR's and the quality of the mobilization of trade unionists. In any case, we will oppose any attempt to reduce the trade unions to a subordinate position, because we are convinced that the revolutionary authorities should not muzzle the anti-imperialist workers organizations. This is why — in order to clear up any doubt [words indistinct], we hope that the authorities will define their conception of the place reserved for the trade unions. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Defense Ministry: Three RSA Planes Downed

MB281344 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Communique issued by Defense Ministry on 28 December]

[Text] The Ministry of Defense of the People's Republic of Angola announces that following violent clashes on 26 December 1983, the enemy air force bombed the village of Cuvelai with a formation of 12 aircraft, causing a number of deaths and injuries. During this action our antiaircraft artillery shot down three enemy aircraft.

On 27 December 1983, the racist air force flew over the village of Caiundo with a formation of 15 aircraft and bombed it, causing a number of deaths and injuries among the civilians. Also on 27 December 1983, eight enemy aircraft bombed Cahama municipality from high altitude, causing a number of deaths and injuries among the civilians.

Our forces continue steadfast in the defense of our positions and repulse with bravery and tenacity this new attack by the enemy.

The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

Office of the Ministry of Defense of the People's Republic of Angola, Luanda, 28 December 1983.

Signed: Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, defense minister.

Embassy Reports Angolans Fleeing to Zambia

MB290649 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] More than 1,600 Angolans have fled into Zambia during the past week from southern Angola, where heavy fighting is reported to be in progress between MPLA forces and troops of the Angolan resistance movement, UNITA. A spokesman for the Angolan Embassy said in Lusaka that efforts were being made to take the people back to Angola, where safe places would be found to accommodate them. He said the evacuation exercise would most likely be started within the next week. Most of the people arrived in Zambia carrying only a few personal be longings. Two weeks ago Angola helped to return 400 of its nationals who had fled into Zambia.

Sassou-Nguesso Departs; Communique Scores U.S.

MB290753 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The signing of a general agreement of cooperation between the MPLA-Labor Party and the Congolese Workers Party yesterday marked the end of talks between the two parties which had begun at the presidential level the day before yesterday. A final communique on the talks indicates that the two parties exchanged views about the paths and means of strengthening the present relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Regarding the prevailing situation in Southern Africa, the final communique stresses that the arrogance and aggressiveness of the Republic of South Africa against the Frontline States is a result of the support that it gets from the United States. The two parties demanded the immediate application of UN Resolution 435 on Namibia, and rejected any attempt to link the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalists from Angola with the independence of that illegally occupied territory.

Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the Congolese Workers Party and president of the People's Republic of the Congo, left Luanda yesterday at the end of his friendly and official visit. The Congolese head of state was seen off by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and members of the Political Bureau and Central Committee, government, and the diplomatic corps accredited to Angola.

Earlier, the Congolese president visited the (Cimangola) cement factory where he assessed its operations and difficulties. At the cement factory, President Sassou-Nguesso saw that the present daily production has reached 700 tons, with the factory operating at only one-third of its normal capacity. However, production is likely to increase with the installation of a fourth transformation oven, whose parts have already arrived in Angola.

The Congolese head of state also met yesterday with the Congolese community living in Angola. During the meeting, which was held at the residence of the Congolese ambassador in Luanda, they dealt with matters related to the activities of Congolese nationals in the People's Republic of Angola.

New Soviet Ambassador Arrives in Luanda

MB290834 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] Arnold Kalinin, new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union in Angola, arrived in Luanda yesterday. Kalinin, who is 50 years old, replaces Vadim Loginov. Prior to this post he has been counsellor minister of the Soviet Embassy in Cuba and ambassador in Portugal. Lately, he was a specialist with the First European Department of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On his arrival in Angola the new Soviet diplomat expressed to the Angolan people the wishes of his people for the defense of their national independence and territorial integrity, and for the fulfillment of economic and cultural development goals of the People's Republic of Angola.

MOZAMBIQUE

FPLM Forces Said To Seize Inhambane 'Bandit' Base

MB290603 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The Mozambique Armed Forces have destroyed another base of the South African-backed Quizumba bandits in the southern province of Inhambane. The base at Malaissa, 20 km

south of Inhambane town and close to the main road to Maputo, was captured last Friday. At a public rally at Inhambane today, provincial military commander Domingos Fondo presented a group of 16 people who have been held captive at the base, including children whose parents have been murdered by the bandits.

General Fondo also presented two men arrested by the Army for collaborating with the bandits. He praised young students and members of the People's Militia who took part in the operation against the base. This latest victory follows the seizure of several bandit bases in Inhambane Province in the past 6 months, including the bandits' headquarters for the whole of southern Mozambique at Tome.

Military Chief Mabote Holds Press Conference

MB281449 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1800 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Report on press conference given by Lieutenant General Sebastiao Mabote, chief of the General Staff of the Mozambique Armed Forces, in Maputo on 27 December]

[Text] [Begin Mabote recording] From March to December of this year, the Armed Forces launched a general offensive — not only an organizational offensive, but an operational one as well. We achieved good results and we destroyed important groupings, particularly in the provinces of Manica, Gaza, and Inhambane. We got evidence, in fact, that the South Africans are supplying the groups of armed bandits through parachute drops. A case in point is the Tome base in Inhambane Province, where we discovered more than four depots of war equipment. This was only in a single camp. This frustrated the armed gangsters a great deal, and therefore they lost their initiative completely.

In Gaza Province we cite the Hati-Hati and Dindiza camps. Dindiza is on the border between Gaza and Inhambane Provinces. In Manica, we cite the case of Chinhica. This camp was considered the provincial base. In Sofala, we can cite Maringue and Gorongoza, where we captured large quantities of war equipment. In Zambezia Province — specifically in Morrumbala district — many big and small camps were destroyed and we were thereby able to fulfill some strategic tasks in that province.

The fundamental objective of the armed bandits is not to occupy our country, because this is impossible. They cannot occupy our country. The commitment of the people in general, and of the Armed Forces in particular, to implement the watchword of the commander-in-chief, the field marshal of the republic, "to transform the bush into a theater of operations," was fulfilled, and continues to be fulfilled in a very efficient manner. We occupy the bush. We occupy the lakes. We occupy the rivers. This means that from the tactical and strategic viewpoint, we occupy the staging points where the armed bandits had been assigned responsibilities by the Pretoria General Staff.

It is the Pretoria chief of staff, who planned the occupation of those places, with the concrete, economic objective of paralyzing railways such as the Limpopo railway line, the Beira-Machipanda railway line, the pipeline, the Beira-Tete railway line and the Beira-Malawi railway line. As you can see, these are economic targets. We think that the armed bandits — we do not merely think this, we have confirmed it — that the armed bandits cannot occupy any part of our territory. They do not have any social base in this country. They do not have a social base because they have no political objectives; they only have economic targets. Their aim is to destroy our country's economy so as to threaten the state central plan. These are the concrete targets of the armed bandits. They are very well planned by South Africa. It is Pretoria which plans them.

This situation, therefore, has greatly improved from March to December this year. Concrete proof is the normal traffic on strategic roads and railway lines and our communications within the provinces, the transport of freight, the capture of a great deal of war equipment — I cannot now say the figure because the General Staff is now working on it, and we will get the general estimate of the seized equipment — and the capture of many armed bandits in operation, excluding those who surrender, as there are many who surrender. There have been many captured, and large quantities of war equipment have been captured from the armed bandits. This is a phenomenon with logistical consequences. It can create logistical supply problems for the chiefs of staff who lead the bandits.

However, since the revolution is always irreversible, the class struggle sharpens itself all over the world. We must be ready at all times for new tactics by the armed bandits. We must be prepared for the new strategy of imperialism, directly implemented through South Africa. At the moment we have small groups which move around in search of food because they have never had support and a base in society. They only destroy property and feed themselves by stealing supplies from the defenseless population. They also receive foodstuffs and combat rations via South Africa.

I know that you comrades have been able to visit many displays of captured war materiel and have seen the bandits who were assigned the task of guiding the planes when they supplied the main base camps of the armed bandits. They are with us, and at any time you can question them and hear what they have to say. The main mission of this armed group was to mark the terrain with fire and Very lights, or colored flares. This enabled the airplane to drop weapons by parachute.

We have also noted that during the operations the armed bandits are not organized in terms of sections — to say nothing of companies — because they do not have an organic structure in their forces. They are, in fact, bandits, who group themselves in various positions to carry out sabotage. This is their main mission. They do not have a structure, and that is why they are doomed. We think they are doomed to final defeat.

This is the general aspect of our operations, particularly from March of this year to date. At the moment our troops are in combat-ready status every day. They are particularly involved in permanent follow-up operations against the armed bandits.

The participation of civilian residents is highly satisfactory. They capture armed bandits even when they are unarmed. They capture armed bandits and turn them over to the popular forces, the

defense and security forces. Therefore, in general the participation of the people is satisfactory. The people already know about the armed bandits and their objectives. They do nothing but commit crimes. We have a figure of how many bandits have been captured. It is not less than 3,000; it is over 3,000. Part of them are hard-core bandits, and others have just finished 1 to 2 weeks of training. There are others who surrendered to us. We have a great number of them: It is over 3,000 — I do not have an exact figure now. We could give you a precise figure, including the number of weapons. That figure does not mean that all of them were armed, because at their bases the hard-core bandits, who come from South Africa and commit many crimes, are only a small number. This is the first category of armed bandits, as we classify them. The second category includes those who had just ended their training and have committed a number of crimes by carrying out armed raids on communal villages in search of food. This is the second group. The third group includes those who, after 1 month of training, used to be sent to search for food very deep inside our territory, following cars and trucks and so on. This mainly involved cars travelling from South Africa to Mozambique. This has been happening from Pafuri to Ponta do Ouro. We have been capturing many of these bandits. So, this is the situation in general. [end recording]

After this briefing, the chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces was available for questioning by the journalists. Mia Couto, of the paper NOTICIAS, asked Lt Gen Mabote to give particulars about the quantity and nature of the armed bandits that have been captured:

[Begin recording] [Mabote] We have more than 3,000, including those who have been captured and those who have surrendered. The tendency is for them to surrender. I have just looked at a report which says that several were captured yesterday and others today. There are others who surrendered. So the figure is likely to increase daily. This also applies to weapons: I cannot give a precise figure. Take the case of the Tome base, for instance, where we captured four arms caches. In Chinhica from August to September in 1 month we captured more than 250 weapons during the operation and liberated the area, because when we attack we occupy it for good in order to support the organization of the local residents. When we occupy an area we also liberate it. We create stability there by organizing the residents — actually, reorganizing them, because they were already organized. We also solve a few problems. So, these are facts that we could mention, in addition to the growth of transport traffic, which has created conditions for the fulfillment of a number of strategic economic plans in our country.

[Unidentified reporter] Could Your Excellency indicate specific cases related to the activities of armed bandits which aggravate the situation regarding the fight against famine resulting from the drought, a natural disaster which is affecting vast areas of our country?

[Mabote] Fine. After we defeated the main groups of armed bandits we cut — we already had cut — their logistics network. Therefore at the moment they are operating in small groups, looking for places where there are cattle, shops, and cassava — places where there are a minimum of conditions. Then they steal, and that is how they supply themselves with foodstuffs. In terms of materiel we can state that at the moment they will have to reorganize themselves again. These small groups will have to reorganize themselves. This is what has aggravated the present drought situation and organization.

[Unidentified reporter] I have a second question to put to Your Excellency. Lt Gen Mabote, what are the most important aspects in the organization of the residents for self-defense purposes and other political, economic, and social activities in the areas affected by the armed bandits?

[Mabote] For an example let me mention Maringue. I will give the example of Maringue and Dombe. We found people naked in these places. In these areas, as well as in Chinhica and Gorongoza, the residents were naked. They wore only parachute cloth. The clothes that the people used to wear had been taken by the bandits to wear. We found the people naked.

The participation of the provincial and central governments as well as the party is highly satisfactory. For example, in Tome area itself and in the towns of Tome, Dindiza, Chinhica, Maringue, Megaza, near the border with Malawi, and the district of Morrumbala and Morrumbala itself — we do not mention Tete, because we have never had major problems with the armed bandits there — the local residents have been reorganized, regrouped and organized. At the moment there are many farms there. The people planted a lot and are organized by the party and government. A major effort is being made by the government and party in organizing the people as well in supplying essential commodities, namely food and clothes. We saw this in the areas themselves.

The people work together with the soldiers as well. We see good relations between the soldiers and the people. This is yet another illustration of our principles and the watchword of the commander in chief, in that the soldier is the son of the people. The relations between the soldier and the people must be like the relationship between fish and water, because outside water fish cannot live. These phenomena and aspects of the relations and work that are being carried out by the government and the party in the affected areas are highly satisfactory.

We could mention several other areas apart from those I have mentioned. Regarding the case involving a number of disturbances that used to occur at the Inharrime River, between Gaza and Inhambane, we reestablished the situation there, but there was slight resistance on the part of small groups, because it is a very rich area. It is a cattle area, an area where we have more food. Therefore, these small groups were insisting on disturbing the situation. However, we have been receiving information daily saying that they have been annihilated.

Therefore, the situation is characterized thus: The people are organized, and a major effort is being made by the party and government. With the aid of friendly countries and humanitarian organizations, the party and government have been able to send essential commodities to those areas. The people at the moment are intensifying agricultural activities, and this is highly favorable for our party and government and for our people in general.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Chief of General Staff, the fight against the armed bandits is one of the tasks described by the Frelimo Fourth Party Congress as a task for the people as a whole. Could you indicate to us how this involvement of the people in the fight against the armed bandits has been taking place at militia level and among the population as a whole?

[Mabote] Fine. In a few words we could say as follows: We have territorial forces which are organized on the basis of the party cells in the areas and districts. These territorial forces occupy the bush. This is the main mission. They are not regular troops. They are territorial forces. Their mission is also to organize the people and to prepare them. They arm the people for their own self-defense by organizing them in groups in accordance with the organic structure of the territorial forces. Militiamen are organized from the party cells at circle, area, and district levels. This is how we have organized the militia forces and how we make the people fight directly against the armed bandits.

There have been interesting developments for us lately. We make weekly and monthly assessments of our activities. We find more activities being carried out by the people and the militia forces. This is highly favorable. At the moment we are not using the regular forces to pursue the bandits. Yes, we can intervene, when a small group or a large group of 100 or so... [left incomplete] in support of the local forces, the territorial forces, to conduct a complete cleanup and destruction of the bandits. We will not let any of them escape from the area. This is the nature of the planning of our operations in the [words indistinct] field.

[Unidentified reporter] Further evidence has been gathered concerning a growing involvement of South Africa in the activities of the armed bandits — namely, the capture of weapons, radio and communications equipment, documents, and so on. Could you speak briefly about this aspect, particularly to explain the origin of AKM weapons which have been captured from the bandits?

[Mabote] Fine. As you know, South Africa has a war in Namibia. It is fighting in Namibia at the moment. In a war the enemy may achieve successes or not. We are certain that part of the weapons come from Namibia, from those captured in Namibia.

Going back in time: Part of the weapons with the AKM mark came from the Zimbabwe war, prior to the liberation of Zimbabwe. The South Africans were in Zimbabwe and also used to attack our country here during battles, such as Mavonde and Mapai. Thus, there was materiel that was captured — and some in operations as well. However, the basic point is that South Africa manufactures the same weapons and puts AKM marks on them, but does not say where have the weapons been manufactured. There is no mark regarding the origin of the weapon. There is no number. What is the objective? It is to mislead our people. After all, our soldiers carry AKM weapons, and now AKM weapons are also being captured. From a political viewpoint it has strategic objectives. It is to create confusion among our people, in that it is our friends from whom we buy these AKM weapons, the same who supply the armed bandits. That is not so. South Africa manufactures 82-mm mortars, 81-mm mortars, 60-mm mortars, B-10 cannon, and light artillery. It can manufacture these very well. We already have hard evidence about it. There are many AKM weapons that are captured, but there is nothing saying which country manufactured them, and we are certain that it is South Africa. This is also the case with communications radios. They are Racal radios and they are manufactured there, but there is no mark saying: made in South Africa [preceding words in English]. We also have Racal radios, and people might think that the source from which we buy this communications equipment is the same that supplies the bandits. That is a fact.

So, the South African involvement, in view of the fact that it has a group of specialized people...[left incomplete]. In general the airplanes fly at night to supply the gangs. We are well aware of it. Sometimes they begin at 2200 and last until dawn, depending on the drops they have to make. Sometimes when they miss the trail they go back. There are times when they start from midnight and go on until 0400. They rarely fly during daylight. The only daylight violations that have taken place have been over the capital. Airplanes fly from Ponta do Ouro, Moamba, or Pafuri. These violations are almost continuous. When we shot the spy plane down, it had two jet planes behind it. They were reconnaissance airplanes. So we shot the spy plane down, and the others hastily retreated to South Africa. These are facts showing that South Africa directly supports, prepares, arms, equips, and supplies the armed bandits. However, we believe they cannot occupy our territory. Rather, they seek to hamper our economy. Our main mission is to liquidate the armed bandits, because it is a priority task that has been outlined by the Fourth Congress guidelines.

[Unidentified reporter] What are the main targets of the armed bandits?

[Mabote] The main targets of the armed bandits have been trains, because they know that they carry goods. They attack trains because they need goods, rather than troops. They attack trains and railway lines. They set landmines on trails likely to be used by army vehicles. They attack isolated shops to steal clothes, salt, and food. They attack the main routes. For example, all the railway lines of the People's Republic of Mozambique that link us with the outside world are the target of armed bandits. These communication routes guarantee cooperation among the Southern African Development Coordination Conference countries. Therefore their aim is to paralyze the economy and force these countries to depend on South Africa. For this reason they have been the main targets of the armed bandits. The defenseless population has also been a target. Thus, everything they do is of a criminal nature. They do not stage planned attacks against our troops.

[Unidentified reporter] Excellency, the party and state leadership has given particular importance to the military training centers. Can you tell us how has this policy been implemented?

[Mabote] Fine. This policy, which is being carried out under the direct leadership of the commander in chief and marshal of the republic, has been successful in the military training centers. This is so because the party, the government, and all organs of the party and state are taking part in it. I am not going to elaborate on how many contingents have already left the centers, because from a military point of view this would be disclosing the number

of soldiers we have. If we talk in terms of six battalions, then the South Africans can report to the domestic reactionaries here. They can think that if every battalion...[left incomplete]. They may ask: What is the internal structure of a battalion? If they know that a battalion has 300 men or 150 men, then they will know how many forces we have trained at the training centers.

At the moment and in accordance with guidelines by the commander in chief and marshal of the republic, I can state that ever since the efforts have been made, the situation has improved from 40 to 45 percent. This is from an organizational point of view. However, efforts continue to be made.

[Unidentified reporter] As you have already answered the question, I would like you to review the present military situation as compared to what was taking place in 1982 and to outline the main activity of the current situation. How is it?

[Mabote] On what?

[Unidentified reporter] The current military situation compared to that of 1982.

[Mabote] The situation from 1982 to 1983 — the situation in 1982 was not very much in our favor. And for what reasons? The bandits would leave South Africa and march to any place they chose. We had no army [as heard]. We were not organized to pursue these small groups, and when the party — the supreme commander — took measures and laid down guidelines to the Defense Ministry or the General Staff of the Armed Forces, from December 1982 to January, February, and March of this year, the situation improved greatly. This year's situation, compared to that of last year, is very favorable. We have more forces. We have more arms. We are better organized, and all party and state bodies and our whole people are involved in the fight against the armed bandits at this moment. The situation is therefore favorable, very much so with the capture of many arms depots, mortars, and cannon, and the surrender en masse of the armed bandits. As you see, we have learned many things, and our situation has improved greatly.

The regular movement of the means of communications, the railways and the roads, is a phenomenon which shows that a great deal has been achieved. Thus when we compare 1982 to 1983, we can say that the 1983 situation is very favorable. It is very satisfactory, and the reason why 1982 was not favorable was because the bandits were moving without encountering anybody. However, now it is a different story. Now we occupy the countryside, and this makes it difficult for them to take positions. In sum, we are in a position to carry out counterinsurgency warfare. This is armed countersubversion. It is simply the matter of transforming the countryside into a theater of operations. [end recording]

MNR Spokesman Cites 'Victories' in New Offensive

MB281350 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Mozambican rebels have killed 138 government troops in a new action. That is according to a spokesperson for the Mozambican National Resistance. He says the new offensive is the biggest since Mozambique won independence from Portugal 8 years ago. He says the guerrillas have seized several towns and destroyed communication links and economic targets. He says the guerrillas scored victories along the Zambezi River and along the vital railway link from Malawi to the port of Beira.

MNR Communique Reports 9 Nov-15 Dec Operations

MB291011 (Clandestine) Voice of Mozambique National Resistance in Portuguese 1700 GMT 28 Dec 83

["War communique" from the headquarters of the Mozambique National Resistance — place and date not given]

[Text] In Zambezia Province, on 9 November, an attack by our glorious forces on a position of the Frelimo criminals in Mureremba resulted in the death of 27 Frelimo soldiers.

On 25 November, we ambushed and burned a military vehicle which was transporting 25 Machel regime soldiers who fled in disarray toward (Mutuivato) upon hearing our combatants' first shots. A total of two elements of the ill-disciplined communist army were killed, and we captured one AK-47 rifle and several other pieces of military equipment.

On 3 December our combatants ambushed the Milange-Mavadge road at (Mopique). The enemy did not respond to the fire and fled, abandoning a variety of equipment.

The Machel regime's criminal action: On 15 December enemy troops from Mureremba in Morrumbala executed an unknown number of members of the public in the area. The criminal action was carried out on the basis of higher orders, and the objectives of the action were not indicated.

In Tete Province on 10 December, we ambushed and destroyed a military vehicle on the Moatize-Zobue road in the Nhangoma area. We captured one AK-47 rifle. On the same day, our forces attacked an enemy position at (Ndande) in Zobue. The ill-disciplined soldiers of the Machel regime army fled in disarray, and we seized the following arms: 5 AK-47's, 6 82-mm mortar shells, 1 hand grenade, 29 RPG-7 shells, and 14 60-mm mortar shells.

The Machel regime's criminal action: Between 2 and 12 December, Frelimo regime criminals burned huts and barns of the population near Casula. Members of the public were also forcibly ordered by the Machel regime's forces to carry corn that had been stolen from the population to the Frelimo regime's position at Casula.

In Sofala Province on 7 December, our forces destroyed another bridge which linked Beira to northern Mozambique and to Malawi. The action took place between Muanza and Inhaminga in the (Noventa) area. On the following day, 8 December, our combatants attacked a temporary enemy position which was preparing to rebuild the bridge. The Machel regime's ill-disciplined soldiers were repulsed and forced to flee by the fire of our forces. In the action we also captured 1 anti- aircraft gun, 1 RPG-7, 3 machine guns, 21 cases of ammunition for AK-47's,

4 cases of anti-aircraft gun ammunition, 34 RPG-7 shells, 18 RPG-2 shells, 1 LMG weapon, and a variety of other war equipment. We also destroyed a locomotive and a tractor.

In Inhambane Province the Machel regime's criminal action was directed at the (Muchungo) area in Massinga, where the Frelimo regime's agents held meetings and asked the local people whether they chose Frelimo or the Resistance. People the Frelimo agents thought were in favor of the Resistance combatants were arrested and flogged by the Machel regime's brutal and criminal soldiers.

The Machel regime's criminal acts have also been directed against Maputo Province. Machel's troops stationed in Boane have been burning the huts of the people of the (Mije) area, on the northern bank of the Incomati near Chinhanguanine, 80 km from Maputo. A similar criminal action was carried out at (Xibebelane), south of Xinavane.

Elements of the Machel regime's ill-disciplined army from Mahel have been using combat vehicles and have been burning down huts and robbing the people of their property in the area of Matongomane. The same elements, on returning to their barracks, tell lies, supplying false information to their superiors, and claiming that they have eliminated the Resistance in the area by showing the items they steal from the people.

SOUTH AFRICA

Arrival of Released UNITA Hostages Announced

MB291247 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1230 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The 26 hostages released by the UNITA resistance movement in Angola arrived at Jan Smuts Airport this afternoon at about 1230 aboard an aircraft of the International Red Cross. A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs said the group consisted of 21 Portuguese, 1 Cape Verdian, 2 Spaniards, 1 Uruguayan, and a Brazilian. According to our reporters at the airport, they all appear to be in good health. A spokesman for the group said they were treated very well by UNITA, and in his opinion UNITA will gain control of Angola next year.

Ambassador To Brief U.S. on Angolan Situation

MB281643 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has instructed the South African ambassador in Washington, Dr Brand Fourie, to fully brief the American Government as soon as possible on the South African position in southern Angola.

Mr Botha reacted in Pretoria to earlier American reaction to South Africa's proposal to withdraw its troops from southern Angola and also the reaction of the Pentagon on the Defense Force's actions in the area. Mr Botha said the American statement that South Africa's offer was viable was level-headed.

Referring to press reports that there was a contradiction in the South African action against SWAPO and its offer to halt operations across the Angolan border from 31 January, Mr Botha said he had to point out that as far as South Africa was concerned there was no contradiction. South Africa could not sit back with folded arms and watch while hundreds of SWAPO terrorists entered South-West Africa to commit murder. Throughout, South Africa had said categorically that SWAPO would not be allowed to abuse the South African wish to end armed confrontation.

Soviet, Cuban Role in SWAPO Offensive Viewed

MB281137 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The launching of SWAPO's annual big terrorist offensive against South-West Africa should finally clear up two main issues in the international polemic. The evidence it provides that Soviet interests in Angola extend beyond that country and that Cuban collusion is decisive in keeping SWAPO's terrorism program going is so overwhelming that ignoring it is political subterfuge. The deployment of the 1,400-2,000terrorists from safe bases deep in Angola brings together all the elements involved in SWAPO's campaign. Their move south is an intricately coordinated effort, clearly the product of months of planning and preparation involving the Soviet Union, the Cubans, the MPLA's People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA], and SWAPO itself.

The rejection of South Africa's cease-fire proposal a fortnight ago was the diplomatic signal for what is now unfolding. A total of seven SWAPO companies are moving south along four routes that have evidently been chosen partly for their proximity to towns in which FAPLA and the Cubans have fortified bases. They are transported as far as possible in FAPLA army lorries, but the official military support goes well beyond such logistical aid or the storing in advance of weapons to be collected further down the route. The new approach draws FAPLA into active military measures in support of SWAPO. It involves the refusal by SWAPO terrorists to become engaged with South African forces, and should contact be made, their fleeing for protection to the nearest FAPLA-Cuban base. There, it is assumed, the security forces would have to withdraw, because of the known policy of directing the military effort solely toward the elimination of the SWAPO terrorist threat.

In addition, SWAPO forces have actually begun their own strikes against isolated South African units — again on the assumption that they themselves are fair game.

Rounding off the integrated multinational logistical service behind SWAPO in this offensive is the covering network of Soviet missiles manned by Cubans that is being used to provide air protection. In the drive to reach an independent settlement for South-West Africa, cognizance will have to be taken of the picture these activities reveal of SWAPO's terrorism campaign. After the abrupt rejection of South Africa's cease-fire offer by SWAPO and the MPLA, Foreign Minister Pik Botha commented that they were not free agents, in that it was the Soviet Union that was pulling the strings in Angola.

If an internationally negotiated settlement for South-West Africa is to succeed, it must address that central fact. While it is avoided, even the best intentions and most persistent efforts will continue to be thwarted.

Hopes for Improved Relations With Mozambique Viewed

MB281143 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Station commentary: "Mozambique's Role in Southern Africa"]

[Text] Reports from Mozambique underline the necessity for the states of southern Africa to achieve economic cooperation on an effective basis and to defuse escalating instability in the southern African subcontinent. The latest news from Mozambique is that the economy of Mozambique is under the severe strain as a result of the war between the Frelimo government and the Mozambique National Resistance Movement, but that despite economic difficulties, the authorities have been compelled to allocate about one-third of the national budget for military purposes.

Recently President Samora Machel has begun realizing the predicament his country finds itself in, and he has been attempting to rectify the position. He has been doing this in several ways: Firstly, Mozambique has been softening its attitude toward the West, and the mere fact that the Soviet Union has found it necessary to reject what it called reports that relations between Mozambique and the Soviet Union are deteriorating is indicative of the fact that the Soviet Union is no longer having things all its own way in Mozambique. Indeed, Mozambique's relations with the Soviet Union through the years have been nothing short of disastrous. Recently, the British magazine *THE ECONOMIST* published a survey of the Mozambican economy and concluded that 7 years of Soviet-style economics have left Mozambique with a stagnant economy and chronic shortages. In cold facts and figures, what has happened in Mozambique since 1975, when Frelimo took over power and promised to transform the country into the first truly Marxist state in Africa, is that food production has declined by up to 75 percent and production of major cash crops has plummeted by 50 percent.

The other welcome step taken by President Samora Machel is that he has taken the initiative in organizing negotiations between the South African and Mozambican Governments. The obvious hope is that there can be an improvement in relations between these two key countries in southern Africa. It can be assumed that private negotiations are still in progress; and certainly all of southern Africa, but particularly Mozambique and South Africa, will benefit should an accomodation be reached. One thing is certain: Wherever the Soviet Union is involved, there is trouble, and nowhere have the Soviets helped to alleviate problems. Wherever they involve themselves, suffering has become a way of life.

ZAMBIA

Decision To Deport Namibian Exiles Reversed

AB281540 Paris AFP in English 1128 GMT 28 Dec 83

[Text] Lusaka, Dec 28 (AFP) — The Zambian Government has reversed a decision to deport exiled members of a splinter black nationalist party from South African-ruled Namibia, Home Affairs Minister Frederick Chomba said today.

Mr Chomba said his ministry, which is in charge of immigration, has taken the decision because President Kenneth Kaunda agreed last week to revoke deportation orders issued in November against an unspecified number of political exiles from Malawi, following talks with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [words indistinct].

The Namibians granted a reprieve are members of the Caprivi African National Union (CANU), a breakaway faction of the guerrilla South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) fighting the South African army in Namibia.

SWAPO is recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people, and has offices in Lusaka.

Mr Chomba warned that both the Namibian and Malawian exiles — members of the Socialist League of Malawi (Lesoma) opposed to President Kamuzu Banda — must stay out of political activity while in Zambia.

"Any action that will not be in the interest of the Zambian Government [passage indistinct] a reprieve that his government was not sure what would happen to them if they were sent back to Malawi, where Lesoma is banned.

ANC Calls for Condemnation of RSA Angola Incursion

MB290716 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Dec 83

[Text] The African National Congress of South Africa, ANC, has called on the progressive world to condemn South Africa's (?barbarous) acts and demand a halt to the regime's aggression and unconditional withdrawal of its troops from Angola. In a statement released in Lusaka, the ANC secretary general, Alfred Nzo, said the regime had intensified its aggression against Angola to halt the progressive economic program started by the ruling MPLA and to extend the frontier of apartheid into the western flank of Africa.

He said the attack on Angola is aimed against the rest of independent Africa and the progressive world, with the view of changing the balance of forces in favor of imperialism.